Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Reportage on Sentences Decided for Ochoa, Others

Tribunal Issues Death Penalty

FL0707130589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1235 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The special military tribunal judging case No 1 of 1989 has dictated its sentences. Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Jorge Martinez Valdes, Antonio de la Guardia Font, and Amado Padron Trujillo were sentenced to the maximum penalty.

Patricio de la Guardia Font, Antonio Sanchez Lima, Eduardo Diaz Izquierdo, Alexis Lago Arocha, Miguel Ruiz Poo, and Rosa Maria Abierno Gobin were sentenced to 30 years imprisonment.

The following were sentenced to 25 years imprisonment: Luis Pineda Bermudez, Gabriel Prendes Gomez, and Leonel Estevez Soto.

The tribunal sentenced Antonio Rodriguez Estupinan to 10 years imprisonment.

Also, it was reported that the military court of the supreme tribunal will meet today to hear the appeals for the sentences imposed by the special military tribunal judging case No 1 of 1989.

Tribunal Rejects Appeal

PA0907122989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1124 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Havana, 9 Jul (AFP)—Cuban official press media announced this morning that the Supreme Military Tribunal rejected the appeal filed on behalf of four former Cuban officers sentenced to death for drug-trafficking activities, and it confirmed the sentences pronounced on 7 July.

The same sources added that the Cuban Council of State, which has constitutional powers to commute sentences, will meet today to consider the case.

The Supreme Military Tribunal confirmed all the sentences pronounced by the court-martial against 14 former Cuban officers. Four were sentenced to death, and the remaining 10 were sentenced to between 10 and 30 years of prison.

The officers sentenced to death are former General Arnaldo Ochoa, former Colonel Antonio de la Guardia, former Major Amado Padron, and former Captain Jorge Martinez.

Council of State Holds Meeting

PA0907132189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1244 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Havana, 9 Jul (AFP)—Official press sources reported this morning the Cuban Council of State will meet today to examine the death sentences confirmed by the Cuban Supreme Military Tribunal against four former Revolutionary Armed Forces and Cuban Interior Ministry officers. [passage omitted]

The Cuban Council of State has constitutional powers to commute death sentences. According to Cuban law, death sentences cannot be carried out without the prior confirmation of the council, which is the highest government organization during recesses of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

The Council of State will hold closed-door discussions today on the death sentences. Observers presume the Council of State's final decision will be announced in the 10 July issue of GRANMA, the official organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and official outlet of the Cuban Government's decisions and views.

It is conjectured that by the time GRANMA's 10 July issue is distributed, the death sentences already would have been carried out, because of the high summary [sumarisimo] nature of the court-martial that tried the former officers. In Cuba, death sentences are carried out by firing squad. [passage omitted]

Court-Martial Sentences Confirmed

PA0907144689 Havana International Service in Spanish 1404 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] The Military Affairs Court of the Cuban Supreme People's Tribunal [Tribunal Supremo Popular de Cuba] has confirmed the sentences pronounced by the Cuban court-martial against 14 former officers of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Interior Ministry. The former Cuban officers were charged with trafficking of toxic drugs, abuse of power, and with carrying out hostile actions against foreign states.

Because of the nature of the sentences pronounced against defendants Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, Jorge Martinez Valdes, and Amado Padron Trujillo—who were sentenced to death—the Justice Ministry sent the records of the case to the Council of State.

The Council of State will meet to study and make a statement concerning that body's decision on whether or not it will commute the sentence, which is a power granted by the Cuban law to the Council of State. The Council of State will meet today [9 July].

The Supreme People's Tribunal also confirmed the 30-year prison sentences pronounced against defendants Eduardo Diaz, Antonio Sanchez, Alexis Lago, Patricio de la Guardia, Rosa Maria Abierno, and Miguel Ruiz Poo.

The Supreme People's Tribunal also confirmed the 25-year prison sentence pronounced against defendants Gabriel Prendes, Leonel Estevez, and Luis Pineda.

The Military Affairs Court of the Supreme People's Tribunal of Cuba also confirmed the 10-year prison sentence pronounced against Antonio Rodriguez Estupinan.

The 14 former Cuban officers were tried at a high summary court-martial, which listened in four sessions to the statements of the defendants, witnesses, experts, and the concluding arguments of the prosecutor and the defense lawyers, who were appointed by the court.

The sessions of the oral hearings of case No 1 of 1989 of the special court-martial against the 14 former Cuban officers were widely covered by our country's national television system.

Sentences May Be Carried Out 10 Jul

PA1007005689 Paris AFP in Spanish 2342 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Havana, 9 Jul (AFP)—Cuba's official media reported this morning that the Council of State will meet today to review the death sentences ordered by the Supreme Military Tribunal against four former officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

The Council of State has constitutional power to commute death sentences, which, according to Cuban law, cannot be carried out without previous ratification from the Council, which is the last resort at the government level at times when the National Assembly is in recess.

The Council of State will meet behind closed doors today to deliberate on the sentences. A final decision will be announced—observers believe—in tomorrow's issue of the newspaper GRANMA, the official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee and the official mouthpiece of Cuban Government decisions and opinions.

It is expected that by tomorrow the sentences may have already been carried out, given the summary nature of the special military court (court-martial) that tried the former officers. In Cuba, death sentences are carried out by execution. [passage omitted]

Council of State Backs Sentence

FL1007104289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1017 GMT 10 Jul 89

[From "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] Unanimous decision of the Council of State: It decides not to commute the sentence of capital punishment for any of those sanctioned by the special military tribunal.

The 29 members of the Council of State gave their complete support for the sentence previously ratified by the Military Affairs Court of the Supreme People's Tribunal. The meeting of the Council of State concluded last night. It began at 1500 [1900 GMT, 9 July] with a single topic on its agenda: to consider if it would exert its authority to commute the sentence of capital punishment handed down by the special military tribunal in case No 1 of 1989 against Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Jorge Martinez Valdes, Antonio de la Guardia Font, and Amado Padron Trujillo. The Council of State unanimously decided not to commute the sentence and, without exception, all its members agreed to support it completely.

The entire Council of State meeting, which will include remarks by all its members, will be broadcast in two successive programs by both national television channels tonight [Monday, 10 July] and tomorrow, Tuesday, 11 July. The two programs will be carried at 2030 [0030 GMT 11 July and 0030 GMT 12 July]. The second program will be devoted to the speech by the president of the Council of State, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Radio Rebelde will simultaneously carry both programs.

Lawyers React to Trial

FL0707114589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The National Cuban Lawyers Union, in an extensive document, responded to the slanderous campaign carried out by the enemies of the Revolution. The information broadcast this morning on Radio Reloj states: We want to express to Freedom House and all other professional lawyers' associations in the world our most energetic repudiation of the distorted and slanderous interpretations they are making regarding the trial of the ex-high-ranking Cuban officers who were linked to international drug trafficking.

The document released states that it was not a political trial as the imperialist propaganda has wanted to show, rather, it is an ordinary penal process carried out against people who have committed infamous crimes.

The lawyers' response concludes by saying: The Cuban lawyers proclaim before the worlds' legal organizations that we do not need anyone to come and fulfill our high duties for us.

Public Opinion Noted

FL0707190089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] This is our people's opinion on the special military tribunal's decision which was announced this morning.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is your name please?
[Garcia] I am Miguel Garcia.
[Reporter] I see you work for the Ministry of the Interior.
[Garcia] Yes sir, I do.
[Reporter] Where exactly do you work?
[Garcia] I work in the main building.
[Reporter] What do you think about the tribunal's decision?
[Garcia] I think, just as the rest of our revolutionary people do, that the special military tribunal has given an accurate sentence which corresponds to our tribunal laws. I also agree with our nation's repudiation of the antisocial elements.

[Reporter] What is your name?
[Compablotes] I am Jose Luis Compablotes.
[Reporter] What do you do for a living.
[Compablotes] I am a journalism student at Havana University. I think it is a just decision, as is usual of our revolutionary government. However, besides this decision, I believe we should take into account some of the things said by the defense attorneys who said that we have lacked some controls. It is evident that we lack these controls, the people know it and I believe the Communist Party of Cuba must know it now.

[Reporter] What is your name?
[Pantoja] I am Gisel Pantoja.
[Reporter] What do you do?
[Pantoja] I am a doctor.
[Reporter] Comrade, do you agree with the tribunal?
[Pantoja] Yes comrade, I do. I think that if the tribunal analyzed each of the sentences they imposed on the comrades who were tried in the hearings, as well as the appeals presented by the defense attorneys, if this has been carefully studied—the sanctions, crimes, and appeals—and they have arrived at this conclusion, then this is the most worthy sentencing they could arrive at. It is also the most exact and precise sentencing for those who commit crimes such as the ones that were presented in the hearing. [end recording]

This is our people's opinion, because now the people of Cuba will have to build and reinforce the trenches of our morals and our honor.

Minibrigade Sends Castro Letter

FL0807105789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1013 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The over 280 members of the Jose Marti internationalist minibrigade contingent, who are building 1,000 homes in Bluefields, Nicaragua, have sent a letter of repudiation to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro condemning the actions of the Ochoa-La Guardia group. The letter says it is with great indignation that they found out about the activities of a group of former FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and MININT [Ministry of the Interior] officers who dared to stain the sacred name of the fatherland. The letter also asks for exemplary punishment for that group.

Venezuelan Official Comments

FL1007142789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] (Vladimir Hesem), president of the Permanent Commission Against the Illegal Use of Drugs of the Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies, is visiting our country. During a news conference, (Hesem) stressed the fairness of the trial held in Cuba against a group of former FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and MININT [Interior Ministry] officers involved in drug trafficking.

[Begin (Hesem) recording] From the information I have received and from what I have read in the press and seen on television, it has been a trial that has been exceptionally open. I think it would be difficult for a Latin American government to show a trial in this manner. I see it as something very positive. [end recording]

(Hesem), who is also a member of the Seventh Antidrug Commission of the Andean Parliament, expressed his confidence that the Cuban Government is not linked to international drug trafficking and he said that the steps taken by Cuba are an example which must be followed by those countries involved in the fight against narcotics.

At the conclusion of his news conference, (Hesem) spoke to our journalist.

[Begin (Hesem) recording, in progress] ...much more open. I want to let the Cuban people know that this situation which has been very painful for you has been experienced by other countries like Colombia, Venezuela, and Bolivia. One must have the strength to carry on.

If the Cuban Government had done this quietly or had a closed trial, it would have led to many interpretations abroad that your enemy could use to create unpleasant circumstances. It would have generated commentaries different from what was desired.

I am not a man who has ties with the Cuban Revolution. On many occasions, I have been politically opposed to the Cuban Revolution. Nevertheless, as president of the antidrug commission of the Venezuelan Government [corrects himself] Congress, and as a member of the Seventh Anti-Drug Commission of the Andean Parliament, I sincerely believe that the step Cuba has taken has given the rest of the world, especially the countries that consume drugs, the countries where there is a high

consumption of drugs, an example of what Latin America is capable of doing in the efforts against drug trafficking and of fulfilling its quota... [end recording, in progress]

Joint Commission in Luanda Discusses Namibia

FL0707115789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The peace process in southwest Africa continues to be analyzed today in Luanda by the delegations of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa. Also participating in the meeting are representatives from the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Cuban delegation is headed by Ricardo Alarcon, vice minister of foreign relations. The first point being discussed is the present situation in Namibia and the fulfillment of UN Security Council Resolution 435 for Namibia's independence.

Approves 7-Point Agenda

FL0807114189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1005 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The Angolan and Cuban delegations who are participating in the Tripartite Commission, scheduled to end today in Luanda, have expressed their concern over the events in northern Namibia with the local police which is composed of South African agents. Alcibiades Hidalgo, spokesperson for the Cuban delegation at the meeting, said that the atmosphere of terror in that region is important. Hidalgo also said that a seven-point agenda was approved during the first work session of the committee. Most of those points, he said, are for the verification of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 for Namibia's independence. Cuba also emphasized the United Nation's responsibility in respecting its agreements and those of the Tripartite Commission, which is composed of our country, Angola, and South Africa to watch over the peace agreements in the region.

More on Meeting

FL0807132589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1218 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Live telephone report from Angola by Cuban correspondent Marcos Yanos for "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] This Saturday morning [8 July], here in Luanda, the fourth ordinary meeting of the Joint Tripartite Commission continues its work. The commission is composed of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa and it is also being attended by representatives of the USSR and the United States as (?observers). As it is known, this commission closely follows the fulfillment of the New York agreements, especially in what refers to the process of decolonization of Namibia and of the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

This morning, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos received the heads of delegations who are attending the tripartite meeting here. It is also worth mentioning that he met with Cuba's representative, Cuban Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon. He also met with the head of the South African delegation which is being led by Foreign Affairs Director General Neil Van Heerden. Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos also received this morning the special representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Mr Martti Ahtisaari who announced that the elections will be held in Namibia on 6 November.

The work sessions of the commission are scheduled to end this Saturday afternoon. The commission is composed of Cuba, Angola, and South Africa; this is its fourth regular session and it is being held here, in Luanda.

Malmierca Heads Delegation to Menem Inauguration

FL0707230289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The presidents of Peru, Paraguay, Panama, Uruguay, Nicaragua, and Brazil have recently arrived in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, to attend the inauguration tomorrow, Saturday, of the new president, Carlos Saul Menem.

The current president of Argentina, the Radical Raul Alfonsin, received Alan Garcia of Peru, Andres Rodriguez of Paraguay, Manuel Solis Palma of Panama, and Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua at the international airport in Buenos Aires. Presidents Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay and Jose Sarney of Brazil also received the highest honors upon their arrival to Buenos Aires.

Other high-level delegations are also in Argentina to attend the inauguration of the new president, such as the Cuban delegation which is headed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

Received by Ambassador Diaz Paz

FL0707235389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2336 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Report by Daniel Torres during "Exclusivo" program]

[Excerpt] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived today in Buenos Aires at the head of his country's delegation that will attend the inauguration ceremony in Argentina. Malmierca was received at the (Sensa) International Airport by Cuban Ambassador to Argentina Santiago Diaz Paz. Representatives of the protocol directorate of the local foreign ministry and officials of the Cuban Embassy also welcomed the Cuban foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Pyongyang Festival Scheduled To End 8 July

FL0707162689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The 13th World Festival of Youths and Students will end tomorrow [8 July] in Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK. Delegates from various countries visited the DPRK's club where they carried out several activities to strengthen their friendship relations and deepen their knowledge of Korean customs.

The thousands of youths attending the event said they were in favor of socioeconomic development, disarmament, international economic cooperation, and finding a solution to the foreign debt.

The festival will close its doors tomorrow with a grandiose show which will be held at 1 May Stadium.

Youth Festival Ends

FL0807174389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1631 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The 13th World Festival of Youths and Students ended today in the capital of the DPRK with a ceremony just as spectacular as the one that opened it a week ago at the 1 May Stadium. The ceremony was attended by approximately 150,000 persons. For a second time, delegates, guests, and a large audience gathered and observed the ceremony which began with the entrance to the stadium of Marshal Kim Il-song, leader of the Korean people, along with leaders of that nation and other countries.

From the moment the closing ceremony of the World Festival of Youths and Students began, the organization, colorfulness, and beauty of the huge event were evident. Thousands of Korean youths, wearing their traditional costumes, performed dances while the [words indistinct] to the beat of the (?music) closed the great meeting of world youth in Pyongyang, which is now part of history.

Commentary on U.S. 'Maneuvers' in Panama

PA0707175789 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jul 89

["Our America" commentary by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Since late June, several international press agencies and newspapers have warned about U.S. plans to conduct military maneuvers in Panama. A press agency report datelined Washington, 29 June, which talks about a U.S. threat to carry out military intervention in Panama if the Panamanian conflict is not solved politically, caught everyone's attention.

(Luigi Einaudi), U.S. representative to the OAS, publicly said his country could resort to the military option if the OAS efforts to reach formulas of agreement between the Panamanian opposition and the Government fail. (Einaudi) said the Panama Canal is currently threatened by Panama's political instability. With marked cynicism, the U.S. representative to the OAS forgets that the United States and its coarse, military maneuvers are the main reasons for instability in Panama. With the maneuvers, the United States is violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The Panamanian Government has repeatedly denounced Washington's plans to keep its military presence in the Panama Canal after the year 2000. According to the treaties signed in 1977, in the year 2000, the United States will have to leave its military bases located along the Panama Canal banks. With the purpose of remaining in Panama beyond the year 2000, Washington has conducted a wide range of destabilizing activities in Panama to which it is now adding military maneuvers near the canal in open violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

During the most recent military maneuvers, the Yankee troops occupied Gamboa and Chilibre, two small towns located near the canal. Panamanian newspapers described the maneuvers as a gradual, attempted invasion of Panama.

In addition to being a dangerous provocation, the maneuvers are becoming a routine movement designed to get the Panamanian population used to such deployments so that at a certain, given time the population does not pay attention to the movements.

The maneuvers are also becoming increasingly frequent and they could lead to a clash or even more significant action with Panamanian civilians or military at any time.

Thus, we can see that the destabilizing plans of the United States in Panama are making a dangerous turn, about which the world must be warned.

AALAPSO Congratulates Government, People

FL0707152789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1422 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] On 26 July, day of the national rebellion, Cuba will celebrate the 36th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks. For this significant day, the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization, AALAPSO, sent their congratulations to the Communist Party of Cuba, as well as to the Cuban Government and people.

AALAPSO sent a special greeting to all the participants of that event and other events that followed which, inspired by Jose Marti and other noble fighters for independence, made possible the socialist society of today.

The example given by Cuba's rich experience and outstanding achievements in the construction of the new society are of great importance to Third World countries.

In turn, Cuba declares itself in favor of human rights and struggles for their recognition in many of the world's nations. This is done via an internationalist and solidarity foreign policy, corresponding the respect merited by the nations that are fighting for their independence.

Division General Batista Awards Soviet Workmen

FL0707150389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1425 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The importance of the basic study material, in guaranteeing the main efforts of defense—preparing the population well—was noted in Granma Province by Division General Sixto Batista. Batista, who is also member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Secretariat of the Central Committee and chief of the Central Committee military department, visited Granma Province's Buey Arriba Municipality as part of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces' inspection of the provinces that make up the Eastern Army.

Thursday [6 July], Sixto Batista awarded the Nico Lopez Award to 9 Soviet linemen who will be returning to their country after establishing electrical connections to more than 1,000 homes, and economic and social objectives in the mountainous region of Bartolome Maso Municipality.

The Soviet workers received their awards at PCC headquarters in Granma province. The awards were presented by the province's first secretary, Roberto Damian Alfonso.

Inspects Santa Cruz del Sur

FL0707220089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2004 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] Inspection Commission which since last Tuesday has been examining the fulfillment of defense tasks in Camaguey Province as part of the inspection of the Eastern Army, is continuing its visits to Camaguey zones and territories.

In Santa Cruz del Sur, Division General Sixto Batista Santana, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], and chief of the PCC Central Committee Military Department, stressed the development of the basic study material there and the serious work that has been conducted for several years in the defense training of the people and the combatants. Batista Santana, who heads the inspection group in Camaguey, toured several installations for military training and spoke with members of the Territorial Troops Militia.

Throughout their tour of the province, the members of the inspection commission observed examples of the people's condemnation of the group of traitors to the fatherland.

Delegate to UN Economic Meeting on Foreign Debt

FL0807014089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2357 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Report by Ramon Solino on "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The chief of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Ecosoc, Enrique Manet, today spoke against the discriminatory proposals to solve the foreign debt problem. Manet spoke at the annual Ecosoc session that began Wednesday in Geneva and he said that although several of the proposals recently made could alleviate the situation in some countries, they continue to be limited and discriminatory solutions that lock in the conditional nature of the adjustment. The debt crisis, he said, cannot be confronted as an isolated phenomenon and not even its complete cancellation for the Third World is the solution. Protectionism, unequal trade, and the reform of the international monetary system must also be considered.

Party Officials Receive Combatants From Angola

FL0807150789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Approximately 150 internationalists returned last night to the fatherland. They were received at the Faustino Perez Airport by members of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and representatives of mass organizations.

In this group, 78 combatants hold the Internationalist Combatant Medal, first class; another 78 hold the second class medal; one holds the Calixto Garcia Medal; and all of them bear the Cuba-People's Republic of Angola Victory Medal. [passage omitted]

Some 300 Internationalists Return to Fatherland

FL0707120789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Last night, a new group of internationalists returned to Cuba from the People's Republic of Angola. Close to 300 combatants make up the group which arrived in two flights. The contingent of internationalists was received by Faustino Perez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, along with various representatives from the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Ministry of the Interior, and leaders from political and mass organizations.

Some 140 comrades from this group bear the Internationalist Combatant Medal, first class; 32 were awarded the Defense of Cuito Cuanavale Medal; and all of them bear the Cuba-People's Republic of Angola Victory Medal.

Palma Soriano Municipality Passes Inspection

FL0807021589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Another municipality in Santiago de Cuba Province that has satisfactorily passed the military inspection is Palma Soriano.

Palma Soriano continues to be a bulwark in the defense of the fatherland and it has earned the congratulations of the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], Army General Raul Castro. This was evident to the National Integral Inspection Commission which is inspecting the FAR and MININT [Interior Ministry] in Santiago de Cuba Province. The commission visited economic, food, and combat training centers in Palma Soriano Municipality, the first in the country to construct a defensive ring with fortifications in which all the people participated.

Those present during the tour were Esteban Lazo, chief of the provincial defense council, and Brigade Generals Leonardo Andollo and Efigenio Ameijeiras who learned the willingness of the residents to always be ready for the defense.

Inspection Commission Tours Refinery

FL0707133589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] In Santiago de Cuba, important industrial centers, as well as other centers related to defense, were visited by the National Integral Inspection Commission which is carrying out its review of the Eastern Army from 4-12 July. During the third day of inspections, the commission reviewed a special engineering unit; the General Jose Maceo Grajales Interservice School, which trains our future officers in various specialties; a defense zone in Melgarejo, near the town of El Cobre; a health institute; the Hermanos Diaz Refinery; and others.

At the refinery, the commission reviewed plant estimates for this year, the state secret [el secreto estatal], tasks to be done in wartime, evacuation and protection of workers and materials, as well as the Republic of Cuba's unique scanning system.

With the conscious dedication and firmness of the combatants, as well as the entire population of Santiago de Cuba, the province has worked hard to be declared ready for defense, first stage. The province has also begun work to attain second stage status, an impregnable trench of our fatherland.

Measures Taken To Ensure Flour Deliveries

FL0707155289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1415 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] In a news conference granted at Havana Province's Industries Directorate, Rogelio Milian, director of that sector, said that the capital has 180 bakeries. He also noted that, at present, there is a slight delay in importing wheat from other countries, which has caused some difficulties in flour deliveries. Havana hospitals and minibrigades have priority regarding this product.

It was also stated that in the last 2 years, bread production in Havana has increased by 11 percent and is expected to increase another 4.3 percent. The Ministry of the Food Industry has taken measures to guarantee production levels for June, as well as to increase daily wheat deliveries by the capital's municipal enterprises.

Bahamas

Prime Minister Speaks on Fighting Drugs

FL0407161889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1602 GMT 4 Jul 89

[By Sandra Baptiste]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 4, CANA—Bahamas Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling says he is optimistic about a new approach by the U.S. Administration and agencies in their quest to pursue drug traffickers outside their own borders.

He recalled that Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders wrote former U.S. President Ronald Reagan during the 1988 Caricom summit in Antigua and Barbuda expressing strong concern about the tendency by the U.S. towards extra-territorial application of legal jurisdiction in pursuit of alleged drug traffickers.

"There was never a response from the White House to the letter sent and signed by all heads of government," Pindling said in an interview with CANA.

"We were not ever sure what that was indicative of. It probably means that the Caribbean was not as imnportant to President Reagan in 1988 as we were in 1983," Pindling said, referring to the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983.

Pindling said that under the George Bush administration there were "encouraging signs" that U.S. agencies were more inclined to use the "natural lines" and not seeking to impose their own procedures and extend their own jurisdiction without consultation and cooperation with local law enforcement agencies.

"In our case we have worked out very clearly defined lines of cooperation," he said.

"Bahamian law enforcement officers, be they the police force, the defence force or customs officers or immigration officers as the case may be, fly on U.S. helicopters, aircraft, coast guard boats, on occasions when they may be in Bahamian waters and in case where there would need to be an arrest of a trafficker or trader in Bahamian territory. The arrest is made by a Bahamian officer on board that aircraft or ship," Pindling explained.

Pindling has given notice that he would be seeking the support of his Caricom colleagues for a meeting of hemispheric leaders to be held in the Bahamas to hammer out a multinational strategy for cooperation between states in enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation and demand reduction efforts.

He reported that in 1988, 15 per cent of its national budget, about U.S.70 million dollars was allocated to law enforcement. He noted that about 65 per cent of serious crime was drug-related.

"As small as we are, in terms of manpower and financial resources, there is no way that any one of us can effectively deal with the problem," he stressed. Pindling said even collectively, Caricom member states did not have the physical and financial resources to effectively tackle the problem.

"...That is because the sophisticated equipment the traffickers use come directly out of the military arsenals of the industrial nations—their communications systems, their weapons, their transportation systems are all highly sophisticated and in order to combat it properly we need highly sophisticated detection levels," he said.

Bermuda

UN Calls for UK Aid in Tackling Drug Problem

FL3006200089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1322 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] United Nations, June 30, CANA—A United Nations panel has once again called on Britian to help Bermuda tackle its drug problems. At the same time, the sub-committee on small territories has urged Britian to ensure that the presence of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation bases in Bermuda do not prevent the island from moving on to independence.

The panel which has been reviewing the situation in several dependent territories said in a report to the Committee on Decolonisation that drug use and abuse in Bermuda was worrisome and it called on Britain to continue to work alongside the territory's government to help it combat the drug problem.

As for the question of self-determination, the sub-committee wants Britain to make certain that the people of Bermuda are fully aware of the options available to them when it comes to the territory's future. It urged London to ensure that the existence of military bases and institutions do not hinder the population from exercising the right to independence.

As it has done in the past, the panel said Britain should continue to take all steps to prevent Bermuda from becoming involved in any offensive military actions because of the NATO bases on its soil. It also suggested that Britain should encourage the island to diversify its economy and it urged UN specialised agencies to provide development assistance to the island.

However, the panels report did not satisfy all of the countries serving on the sub-committee.

Czechoslavakia, for instance, objected to what it called the "consensus language" in the panels report, complaining that Bermuda was "much more militarised" than other dependent territories and the committee should come out and say so.

Grenada

Public Sector Unions Reject Wage Increase Offer

FL0507230289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2235 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 5, CANA—Three public sector unions in Grenada have rejected a 3.3 percent wage increase offer from the government and are mobilising support from their membership. The unions have summoned a series of island-wide meetings of their members.

Union sources told CANA that they have rejected as "totally unacceptable" the latest pay increase offer from the Herbert Blaize administration for the 1987-89 period. "We are at a deadlocked stage in our talks," one union official said.

The official who asked not to be named said that the government negotiating team led by Albert Xavier, special advisor to the prime minister, put forward proposals for an across-the-board 3.3 per cent increase for each year. He said that the unions are seeking increases of 50 to 55 per cent over three years.

Haiti

Reportage on Situation at Radio Soleil

Soleil Employee Threatened

FL0507170389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...authorization to carry out the religious procession.

Meanwhile, the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] reaffirms its strongest support for the decisions reached by Radio Soleil's administration, and on Saturday, seven more employees were fired by the station's administration. Among these employees were newscasters Colette Lespinasse, Venel Remarais, Marie-Josee Casimir, Morrison Charles, and (Nady Pierre-Richard). The reason for the dismissals: insubordination—an immediate and insolent retort in opposition to the radio's decisions.

According to one of the employees fired Saturday, the insubordination that the bishops mention in their letter of dismissal is simply a memorandum that was read over the air by Radio Soleil's staff condemning the lack of dialogue on the part of the CEH in this crisis that Radio Soleil is experiencing. Also, on Saturday morning, a few hours before these seven new dismissals, Venel Remarais of the Radio Soleil newsroom, was verbally abused in front of the station by an armed individual who seriously threatened him. Here is Remarais' opinion of this incident, which occurred a few hours before he was fired from Radio Soleil.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Remarais] Well, I don't know how I should interpret this, because basically, I do not know of any fault I have committed or of any harm I might have done anyone.

What I find strange is that I have been taking that same route every day, two or three times a day, for the past 11 years. Even during the roughest of times, never had I received that kind of a threat—I mean, to have a guy pull a gun on me this morning, and stick it in my face! And I did feel that this guy could kill me.

There was practically nothing I could do about it, for there was a guy positioned in front of the car, while the other one leaned into the window, talking to me. So they could have done anything they wanted.

Nevertheless, as I have already said, since I do not consider that I am in the wrong, well, if there has to be one more body—if, in order for the population to be delivered, it takes one more cadaver—well, I'm ready to offer up mine. I don't have a problem with that.

[Unidentified reporter] But Venel, what are you planning to do about this incident that happened to you this morning?

[Remarais] Well, I don't see what I can do about it, since we are in a country where no one has any security, so.... [changes thought] The only thing is, as I said, this is not going to (?stop) me. I mean, of course I was scared, but I think I have to get a grip on myself and stay lucid. And, come what may, let them do whatever they want to do. I mean, if my body has to be added to all the other cadavers in order to bring about change, well, so be it. I'm ready. I'm prepared for it. [end recording]

The situation is thus a very sorry one at Radio Soleil.

We remind listeners that during the mass celebrated at Saint Jean Bosco Church yesterday in solidarity with Radio Soleil's dismissed staff, a tract was distributed to the public denouncing the radio station's new administration and castigating three members of the radio station's personnel accused of collaborating with the Haitian bishops.

Through Radio Soleil, the Catholic Church appears to be well on its way to a new crisis.

Press Review of 'Crisis'

FL0507183289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The crisis within Radio Soleil is the big topic in the principal periodicals of Port-au-Prince and the United States.

HAITI EN MARCHE says that the gagging of Radio Soleil by the bishops is a bad omen for the entire Haitian press. The Miami weekly emphasizes that the Catholic Church's image will not emerge strengthened whatever the outcome of the crisis.

HAITI-PROGRES says the crisis reveals a dual problem, the two aspects of which are intimately linked. For one thing, it illustrates the depth of the chasm separating the conservative, official, church and the church of the poor, faithful to its theology of liberation. Secondly, it confirms that the bishops have gone over to the side of the bourgeoisie and have completely abandoned the defense of the Haitian people. Each stage in the crisis shows the bishops' irrevocable desire to abandon the options in favor of the masses that earned Radio Soleil its reputation and influence.

BALANCE also discusses the Radio Soleil crisis. It's headline this week reads: "The Sun Is No Longer Shining at Radio Soleil." [passage omitted] BALANCE's journalist sees in all this a threat to the press in general, a good pretext—he writes—for those with political power to muzzle the press.

HAITI-PROGRES also says, in one of its inside pages, that Monsignor Constant, passing through Miami last weekend, had to leave Miami quickly because there was to have been an anti-Bishop demonstration on 25 June in Little Haiti where he was to have said a mass.

Another front-page subject, on HAITI-OBSERVATEUR's front page this week, is the devaluation of the gourde that the paper says the international monetary authorities are suggesting.

HAITI-OBSERVATEUR notes: Circles close to the International Monetary Fund, IMF, expect measures pretty much like those taken in the Dominican Republic—where the Dominican peso was devaluated to 6.75 pesos to the dollar—to be applied before long. These same circles close to the IMF do not hide the fact that the devaluation of the Haitian gourde would be a fitting way to combat the economic crisis Haiti is in. However, this devaluation would be only the first of other IMF projects for Haiti.

HAITI-OBSERVATEUR announces, as a consequence of the nation's general condition, the imminent shutdown on a massive scale of factories in the assembly sector. [passage omitted]

"Watch Out: A Military Intervention for Haiti Recommended, and by People Who Wish Us Well." Such is one of this weekend's principal headlines in HAITI EN MARCHE.

A U.S. congressional committee that has just conducted an investigation in Haiti recommends that the U.S. Administration examine, within the framework of international organizations—especially through the OAS and with other interested countries—the possibility of providing a direct presence in Haiti so as to guarantee the Haitian people's security in its efforts to democratize the country. [passage omitted] Marcus Garcia's paper continues: This investigating committee sent by the Congress returned from Haiti with the impression that Haiti is a country that has been abandoned to the perpetrators of the massacres, where law and order are totally ignored, and where there exists only the appearance of a government. [passage omitted]

Further on Soleil Situation

FL0507174789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Radio Soleil is still the main news here in Haiti. So how, in fact, is the situation at Radio Soleil?

Well, there was a general assembly yesterday morning, organized by the Haitian Journalists Association [AJH] in solidarity with their Radio Soleil colleagues who have been fired; some 100 journalists attended. Many things were discussed during this big assembly.

Several Radio Soleil journalists, both journalists who have been fired and journalists who have not yet been fired, took the floor during the discussions. According to these Soleil journalists, no one working at the radio station at present is safe, considering the dismissals going on at present at Radio Soleil.

Mr Venel Remarais feels that his mass had been celebrated already a few days before he was dismissed—that is, that they had already prepared him for firing. Three hours after he was abused, he was given his letter of dismissal. It was an angry Father Arnoux Chery, bitter as bile, who presented him with his letter of dismissal and this priest (?wouldn't listen to Remarais on anything).

Also, according to Mr Remarais, just when the priest was at the point of abusing him, the radio station's transmitter in the [Cul de Sac] plain was shut down. Remarais' letter of dismissal was already signed. It had been signed by Father Chery (?and) three members of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH], among them Monsignor Wolf Ligonde. It seems it was he, particularly, who was at the root of Remarais' dismissal. Ligonde fired Remarais because Remarais had told the lie to his hierarchical superiors.

[Journalist] Colette Lespinasse, one of the victims of the lastest wave of dismissals at Radio Soleil, also took the floor. She briefly explained the relations existing in the past between herself and the rest of Radio Soleil's personnel and the former administrations headed by Father Hugo [Triest] and Father [Raymond] Conard.

According to certain colleagues, Radio Soleil is not the only station that is being called to account. Radio Lumiere is reportedly apparently undergoing the same fate. These same colleagues, the AJH, say all these things are part of the same general context.

In view of the current situation within Radio Soleil, many proposals were made by the members of the AJH's cooperation (?group). Finally, two committees, one of them an action committee given the task of really finding out why these Radio Soleil colleagues—for example, Mr Remarais—have been fired, were formed.

At this meeting, other demonstrations of solidarity with the Radio Soleil journalists were planned. For example, they are going to broadcast over the other radio stations, every single day at noon, the [Radio Soleil] theme song "L'e m'pa We Soley la." [passage omitted]

Also, on Saturday 1 July, the National Association of Haitian Technicians, Anatech, held a news conference at its headquarters, located at (G.B. Damien) Vocational School to protest the dismissal of Radio Soleil's programs director and in solidarity with all Radio Soleil's journalists, who are on strike. [passage omitted]

After the association's president, Mr (Wanel Cadet), opened the discussions, its secretary general, Mr (Patrick Crispin), the main speaker, said that the leaders of the church, who claim to be Jesus Christ's ambassadors on earth, should not also be the cause of troubles. On the contrary, they should be setting an example. Anatech says that if the church hierarchy could offer to serve as mediator with a view to settling the conflict that existed within the Army, it feels the church leaders should today offer to set this same example by trying to manage the crisis between Radio Soleil's personnel and (?its administration).

[Begin (Crispin) recording] Should this same Church and its leaders, who are allegedly Jesus Christ's ambassadors on earth, be engaging in crooked wheeling and dealing, doing things that are not right? No, on the contrary. They are supposed to be setting a good example! [passage omitted] [end recording]

According to Mr (Crispin), the bishops refuse to engage in dialogue, the crisis persists, and the situation continues to deteriorate. [passage omitted]

[Begin (Crispin) recording] [Passage omitted] Instead of sitting down and talking to the journalists, they have made decisions that all the rest of the population, all the rest of the Haitian people, all the popular organizations, all the democratic, union, and religious organizations—upon seeing that the programs director has been fired without just cause—consider arbitrary acts against the Radio Soleil journalists. We think that things cannot remain this way. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Conacom [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements] too remains adamantly opposed to the position taken by the church hierarchy on the current crisis in Radio Soleil.

Also, several Haitian and foreign priests celebrated a mass yesterday morning at Saint Jean Bosco Church in solidarity with the Radio Soleil journalists, who are demanding that Mr Joseph Georges be reinstated as programs director at Radio Soleil. [passage omitted]

Several Haitian and foreign priests from diverse dioceses in Haiti's nine geographical departments said a mass yesterday, Sunday, under a very hot sun at Saint Jean Bosco Church in Portail Saint Joseph. [passage omitted] Saint Jean Bosco church was jam-packed with the faithful, who came from all over to attend this mass. We noticed several soldiers from the Motor Vehicle Traffic Department present.

When these soldiers entered Saint Jean Bosco Church courtyard, their presence panicked the people present. Some people even leaped up on the wall so as to be able to jump quickly out of the courtyard if need be. However, the priests told the faithful that they need not fear and that they need not run; and the people got down off the wall and came back to hear the word of God.

In the message on the occasion, the priests said a few things (?not too flattering to) the bishops, such as: Last year, Father Jean Bertrand Aristide underwent his baptism by blood, (?due to) a plot by the bishops; today, the Radio Soleil team is undergoing its baptism by blood, (?through) the dismissals by the bishops. God wants life and liberty. God does not want insecurity, plots, waves of dismissals, and so forth.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Last month [as heard], Father Jean Bertrand Aristide underwent his baptism by blood (?due to) the plot by the macoute bishops. Today, (?in) the light of truth, we can say that it is the Radio Soleil team that is being put through its baptism by blood, (?by means of) the dismissals by the bishops. Does Jesus want this? [crowd answers: "No."] Does God agree with this? [crowd answers: "No."] No, I don't think so.

God doesn't want this because God is freedom. God doesn't want this because God is life. Now, there is no life in Haiti. There is no life in the church. It is death that is rising, both night and day—death (?from) insecurity, death (?from) plots, death (?from) dismissals.

And since Jesus doesn't want this, since we all agree that God does not want this, together we are going to organize ourselves so as to be able to obtain life for ourselves, our country, and our church. [end recording]

In their message, the priests said that events in the church and events in the country show clearly that it is the donkeys who are working hard, in order to allow the horses to gallop about freely enjoying themselves, so to speak—with a part of the population getting benefits and another part not getting benefits.

The plot to get Radio Soleil's journalists fired came from afar, said the priests. This is the policy of the big countries toward Haiti. The church, which should be in the service of the people, has turned its back on the people. As priests, this hurts them deeply. They do not recognize this position on the part of the bishops—which is out to destroy the church. Because it is with the money of the poor that Radio Soleil operates at present, Radio Soleil should not turn its back on the poor. [passage omitted]

We inform listeners that all of Radio Soleil's personnel were fired over the weekend. Thus, the crisis within the Catholic Church's radio station has deteriorated even further.

We remind listeners that on Friday 30 June, we received another communique from the CEH. Here is what this new communique says: [passage omitted] The CEH pointed out that to act contrary to these dispositions was the expression of a sort of fundamental disagreement that could lead to the application of severe sanctions. Now, this disagreement was shown, through several broadcasts immediately following this [first] communique, and several open letters were carried over the Catholic Church's radio station.

The station's administrative council, with the approval of the administrative bishops council, took the measures called for, under such circumstances. The CEH very firmly supported these decisions, and once again reiterated its confidence in Radio Soleil's administration.

The CEH takes this opportunity to remind listeners that Radio Soleil will remain in the service of evangelization through education, information, and recreation.

The CEH reiterates its solidarity with the Haitian people, and its desire to accompany the Haitian people all the way to the end, within the framework of its mission, as it has done in the past—with a view to helping the

Haitian people promote their rights, reminding them of their duties, and helping them participate in the construction of a more just and more fraternal society.

In this connection, we invite God's people in Haiti to show its spirit of understanding and discernment. As everyone knows, the Haitian people are convinced that the church intends to (?respect) its commitment and loyalty to the mission entrusted to it by the Lord.

We once again call on all men of goodwill to renounce hatred and live in love, to renounce injustice so that justice may prevail, to renounce lies so that truth may prevail, and to renounce violence so that peace may prevail.

This communique came from the CEH on 30 June 1989. [passage omitted]

Organizations Comment on 'Crisis'

FL0607151289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Radio Soleil is still in crisis. The 25 signers of a joint communique are wondering why only some of the signers have been dismissed recently at Radio Soleil, the Catholic Church's radio station. Only 7 out of 24 people were fired [figures as heard], whereas all of them signed the 25 June letter addressed to the station authorities—the letter which the Episcopal Conference of Haiti found unacceptable.

The protestors reiterate their faith in the dialogue and participation that has always guided their work at Radio Soleil. They say these dismissals are not in keeping with the principles of the Gospel, respect, and the dignity of human rights preached by the church. They say that the arguments used to (?get rid of) the members of the team are specious.

The latest reaction noted on this crisis is that of ADEP, which is the association of Port-au-Prince private schools. ADEP declares itself astonished to learn that there have been more dismissals at Radio Soleil. ADEP thinks it is still possible to find a solution to this burning problem, which could be detrimental to the cohesiveness of Haiti's Christian population.

For Electricite d'Haiti's employees union, the crisis at Radio Soleil has clearly demonstrated that the bishops are not in favor of change.

In Saint-Marc, the popular organizations have not remained indifferent to the crisis situation at Radio Soleil. They accuse the Haitian bishops of being on the side of the rich and of imperialism. [passage omitted]

AJH Issues Press Release

FL0707124289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The Haitian Journalists Association [AJH] has said a few words on the current crisis at Radio Soleil. [passage omitted]

In view of the arbitrary behavior exhibited by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH], we must believe all the rumors circulating to the effect that the Catholic bishops, the church hierarchy, intend to sidetrack the radio station's main objective, which is to evangelize, educate, inform, etc.

According to public opinion, the wave of dismissals among the members of the Radio Soleil's pioneer team falls within the framework of a global plan to destabilize and destroy the Haitian press.

This press release is from the AJH executive committee and is signed by Dischler Marcelin, secretary general, and Raymond Exume, deputy secretary general.

Reaction to Strike Called by Drivers Unions

Strike Deemed Illegal

FL0607132289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpts] This is the 2d day of the [drivers unions] strike. [passage omitted] The Ministry of Social Affairs has deemed the strike not in conformity with the law; whereas several organizations—among them APN [People's National Assembly], KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity], and MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country]—have expressed support for the strike. [passage omitted]

Observed Only 1st Day

FL0607133289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Yesterday, 4 July, the 1st day of the 3-day general strike, public transportation was totally paralyzed in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted] The government had taken a number of measures to put vehicles at the service of everyone who needed transportation. [passage omitted] Most stores remained closed yesterday. The marketplaces were functioning, but at a slowdown. There were almost no buses coming into Port-au-Prince from the provinces. [passage omitted]

The factories, however, were functioning very well. Many workers were able to get to work because SONAPI [expansion unknown] provided transportation for the workers so they could go to work normally. Thus, the industrial sector functioned almost normally.

Thus, yesterday, the strike was a success, particularly regarding public transportation.

For the time being, in Port-au-Prince, the 2d day of the strike does not resemble the 1st day at all—that is, activities have resumed to the point where they are almost normal in the capital. [passage omitted]

[Reporter Jacob Virgil] [Passage omitted] As everyone can see, the 2d day of the drivers strike is apparently not being adhered to at all. [passage omitted] The industrial park was full of workers on their way to work. We point out also that plant managers put vehicles at the disposal of the workers.

We can say that the strike is not being adhered to on this 2d day in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

[Jeremie correspondent Luckner Laguerre] [Passage omitted] The situation is the same on the 2d day of this strike. All the vehicles to the different communes in the Grand Anse are operating. [passage omitted] We see that certain buses that normally run between Jeremie and Port-au-Prince did not go today. However, one of them did leave for Port-au-Prince this morning.

This is Luckner Laguerre, Haitian National Radio, Jeremie.

Some Transportation Provided

FL0607132089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] The Ministry of Public Health and Population informs all health workers that it is putting vehicles at their service so that they will be able to get to all the hospitals. In this way, they will be able to help the hospitalized, whom the ministry says are being unjustly victimized by the general strike.

This press release is signed by Dr Serge Pinthro, minister of public health and population.

Gonaives Not Adhering to Strike

FL0607134889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Report by Gonaives correspondent Bredy Delva—live or recorded]

[Text] The situation is the same as on the 1st day of the metropolitan area transportion workers union strike. Public transportation between Gonaives to Port-au-Prince is still paralyzed.

As we reported yesterday, 4 July, the 1st day of the strike, public transportation to other areas, such as to the north, the northwest, the south [as heard], and in the town of Gonaives, is normal.

Workers in both the public and private sector are going about their business normally. Commerce is functioning normally.

There you have it. That's how things are in the upper Artibonite Valley on the occasion of the metropolitan area drivers union's general strike. The situation is identical to what it was on the 1st day of the strike. Only public transportation between Gonaives and Port-au-Prince has adhered to the strike.

This is Bredy Delva, Haitian National Radio, Gonaives.

[Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1600 GMT on 5 July, in a report on the 2d day of the transportation strike in the provinces, adds: "As for the provinces, we have heard from Hinche, in the upper central plateau. According to our correspondent, only public transportation is not functioning today in Hinche, but all other activities are normal."]

Strike Termed 'Failure'

FL0607201289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today is the last day of the general strike. [passage omitted] We remind listeners that the general strike was adhered to, on the 1st day, especially regarding public transportation. [passage omitted]

However, the 2d day of the general strike was not respected at all. It was a total failure for the drivers unions. We made a great effort to contact these unions to get their opinion of the 2d day of this general strike, which was not adhered to. They refused to give us any statements regarding the 2d day of the strike. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] The 3d day of the general strike called by four drivers unions in the metropolitan area was not respected in Port-au-Prince at all. Already early this morning, activity was normal, as if there were no strike. [passage omitted] All the provincial bus terminals were full of vehicles preparing to leave for all provinces, such as Cap-Haitien, Port-de-Paix, Jacmel, Les Cayes, etc.

Workers were standing around waiting for the free transportation. However, these vehicles did not start running (?at the same time). (?Even though) there were public transportation vehicles, the workers preferred to wait for the free vehicles. Commerce is operating normally. [passage omitted]

Well, since yesterday, this strike has died in the hands of the four drivers unions that called the 3-day strike.

Avril on FADH Reorganization, 'Fauntroy Report'

FL0607200489 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 33.576, 4 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Last night [Monday 3 July], in an interview he granted to National Haitian Television [TNH], Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military

government, broached only three points currently at the center of the news in Haiti: the reorganization of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], strongly shaken by the events at the beginning of April; the alarming downslide of the gourde against the dollar; and the recent report addressed to a group of U.S. congressmen by a U.S. mission.

Regarding the first of these matters, Gen Avril expressed his satisfaction with what has been accomplished within the FADH following last April's events. [passage omitted] Gen Avril stressed that military discipline has been strengthened and said that in order to fill vacancies, some soldiers have been recruited. They are not "macoutes," as some people have tried to make people believe, Avril said.

Regarding the "fall" of the gourde vis-a-vis the dollar, Gen Avril announced that he will soon announce measures required by the situation and aimed at combatting this tendency.

In connection with one of the points of the report that people here have baptized the "Fauntroy Report," the president of the military government declared that he, like everybody else, has read this report, which has been circulating like a tract (it bears no signature, Avril said). In this connection, Avril said the report speaks of the government's "weakness." In this connection, Avril pointed out that since the government has not reacted by punishing rebelling members of the Armed Forces with the greatest of rigor, as have other governments in the history of Haiti, people have no doubt chosen to conclude that the government is weak.

Gen Avril expanded a little on the "rumors" concerning La Tortue Island, rumors which have already been denied twice by the government. Seeing that this didn't work, Avril concluded, they are now trying to claim—referring to the aforementioned report—that it is now the entire country that the government wants to sell.

Since TNH's "interviewers" [preceding word in English] brought up only these three matters, the big problem of insecurity was not discussed with Gen Avril. Only the strike call by the public transportation vehicle drivers unions was mentioned.

On this matter, the president of the military government explained that strikes are a "precious weapon" for the defense of the working class, which one cannot use at random if one wishes it to continue to be effective.

Recruiting of FADH 'Parallel Force' Denied

FL0607160589 Port-au-Prince LE MATIN in French No 26761, 5 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Press Release: The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination wishes to state clearly, for the edification of the public, that the Haitian Armed Forces' [FADH] recruiting of a parallel force has never been a question.

The recruiting going on is being done within the military norms required to fill vacancies within the FADH.

[Signed] Directorate of Information

PDCH Leader Protests U.S. Detaining Colonels

FL0807161189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] In Port-au-Prince, the leader of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH], Reverend Sylvio Claude, also protests the protracted detention in the United States of the three putschist colonels [Rebus, Qualo, and Biamby].

[Begin Claude recording, in Creole] This morning I have a question I want to ask the Haitian people and the political leaders—who say they are political leaders but who are presidential candidates—as well as the people's organizations and, in fact, all organizations in Haiti, political, union, and other. The question is: Isn't any Haitian, regardless of who he is, still Haitian? If three Haitians try to settle their own business in their own country, if they are wrong, they are wrong in their own country. If they have any explanations to give, they have explanations to give in their own country. [passage omitted] What do the Americans want? Is it that they need to kill these guys? Is it that they are trying to discourage Haitians from trying to overthrow Avril through coups d'etat?

What astonishs me, and the question I am asking all those people I mentioned earlier is that there are a number of people's organizations in Haiti that run around all day long yelling "Down with the Americans," "Long live this or that," "Americans are imperialists," and so forth. However, here are the Americans now really doing something imperialistic, and now all these organizations shut their mouths and say nothing.

So, when they go about howling about the Americans, is it that they are trying to take care of personal business to their own advantage—or Haitian business?

Now, here we have three Haitians. Regardless of what they did, they are not in our country. They are in prison in a foreign country, and that country does not have a right to do this to them. They have committed no crime in the foreign country.

They are on a hunger strike, asking to be allowed to leave that country, asking to be sent to another country, and yet everyone keeps his mouth shut! Nobody says anything!

Now, in view of such a situation, they [not further identified] should demonstrate in front of the U.S. Embassy, to ask the U.S. Embassy why these men are in jail. The men have asked to be sent to another country. They have not even asked to remain in the United States! They are on a hunger strike. They have not eaten for 11 days. [passage omitted]

I am wondering if all those Haitians, all those political leaders, are (?keeping shut) so Avril will turn the government over to them. I, Sylvio Claude, say (?forget it)! Avril is not going to turn the government over to anybody at all, because it is Avril whom the Americans want to have remain in power, and it is the Americans who are making Avril do everything that he is doing in Haiti against Haitians! [end recording]

That was the position of Rev Sylvio Claude on the detention of the three putschist former Haitian Army colonels in the United States.

Caricom Reportedly Rejects Membership Request

FL0607135889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer Smoy] It was not with open arms that the 13 leaders of the Caribbean Common Market welcomed, yesterday morning during their first working session, Haiti's request to be allowed to become a permanent member of this institution, Nancy.

[Nancy] Right, Smoy. [passage omitted] During their first working session yesterday morning, 13 leaders of the Caribbean Common Market, Caricom, worked on Haiti's request for permanent membership in Caricom. However, according to official sources, it is unlikely that Haitian membership will be agreed to this year.

St Vincent Prime Minister James Mitchell said the ministers spent most of yesterday morning discussing the situation in Haiti. Also, they based their opinions on a report presented by a team of five Caricom members.

We remind listeners that this team had visited Haiti at the beginning of June at the invitation of Prosper Avril's government.

However, official sources say this report recommends that Haiti's request to be allowed to join Caricom not be accepted this year, because to accept it would be to double the Caricom population, currently estimated at approximately 5.5 million people. Furthermore, Haiti can neither make a significant economic contribution to Caricom nor pay for shared services.

The report also says that politically speaking, this is not an opportune moment for allowing Haiti to become a permanent member of Caricom. However, we have learned that Caricom might send a ministerial mission to examine the situation in our country, if General Avril gives proof of good faith, such as by organizing free elections, as he has promised. [passage omitted]

MOP Concerned Over Sociopolitical Situation

FL0607140389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The Movement for the Organization of the Country, MOP, says that it is concerned over the way the sociopolitical situation is currently evolving in Haiti. In a press release signed by Emanuel Victor Beauvais, the MOP highlights the indifference of the military government headed by Lieutenant General Prosper Avril toward the demands of the union drivers. The drivers are demanding that an appropriate solution to the crisis that Haiti is currently experiencing be found through dialogue and the reaching of a consensus. [passage omitted]

Any and all kinds of corruption and repression, vile maneuvers, and lies will never discourage all those struggling for social justice in a democratic Haiti, the MOP press release says.

MOP calls on all serious political parties in Haiti to meet quickly in order to find—together and in (?the purest) democratic and patriotic spirit—a national solution to the country's many problems. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that MOP was one of the political parties that had come out in support for the 3-day general strike called by drivers unions for yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Announces 'Political Conference'

FL0707122789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Political Bureau of MOP, the Movement for the Organization of the Country—which used to be called the Workers/Peasants Movement, the party of the democratic national masses—informs the public that it is holding a political conference on 7, 8, and 9 July 1989. This political party once again calls to the attention of the Ministries of Justice and Interior the actions of certain unscrupulous people, who are using MOP letterhead paper to issue invitations to alleged political conferences, as well as to ask for money in the name of the MOP.

This press release is signed for the MOP Political Bureau by Emanuel Victor Beauvais, secretary for organization and member of the Political Bureau, and Pierre Charles Joseph, head of the information and propaganda service of the MOP, Movement for the Organization of the Peasants, MOP. [as heard]

PUNH Still Supports Avril Government

FL0707124589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] We have here a press release from the National Haitian Unity Party, PUNH, bearing the signature of Max Dubois, political leader. This political party says that it still supports the government of General Prosper

Avril. Meanwhile, it calls on the population in general and the public transportation vehicle drivers in particular to show greater proof of political maturity, so as to avoid Haiti's falling into chaos.

According to Max Dubois, the military government is of good faith regarding democracy. PUNH thinks the general has amply stated his position regarding turning the government over to a civilian who will have been democratically chosen by the Haitian people.

Lastly, the military government, which is far from weak (?regarding its functions), is working respectfully with everybody for the greater happiness of (?the masses), the happiness of the Republic of Haiti.

This press release is signed by Max Dubois, political leader in charge of the PUNH.

Electoral Council To Meet Political Leaders
FL0707132089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Electoral Council [CEP] is still at work. CEP members said last week that the CEP is now preparing to receive political parties and groups and is continuing to work on the preparation of the electoral calendar, which will be made public soon.

During the week of 7-14 July, the nine members of the CEP, housed temporarily at the Legislative Palace, will receive the representatives of political groups and parties. This is an open invitation to all parties and organizations without any discrimination on the basis of ideology, notes CEP Secretary General Jean Gerard Pierre. As a matter of fact, this will not be the first series of meetings the CEP is holding. Union organizations, the confederation of instructors, the journalists association, and members of the chamber of commerce have already responded to the CEP's call.

After meeting with the leaders of political parties and organizations during the week of 7-14 July, the CEP is to meet with the members of the Haitian Manufacturers Association, ADIH. Mr Pierre said this is a way to gather the opinion of all sectors, so as to do a rational job that responds to the aspirations of all.

[Begin Pierre recording, in Creole] We have already met with the union organizations and several organizations from the civilian society and have had several other meetings. We have met with the journalists association, as well as, particularly, all the groups and organizations that we ourselves represent on the CEP. We are not finished.

It is within the framework of this policy of contact and dialogue aimed at permitting us to methodically and in a rational manner elaborate a program—so as not to leave anything out—that now we have arrived at the stage where we will meet with political organizations, parties, and figures. Right after that, within this same framework of making contacts that we have already begun, we will go deeper into our contacts in Haiti—that is, in the hinterlands, at all levels—so that we can set up a serious program, do the work seriously, for it is for the nation that we are doing what we are doing. [end recording]

The suggestions retained from all these meetings will serve to help the CEP perfect the electoral agenda, the publication of which has been announced for very soon. However, no date has as yet been set for making public the election calendar, which will first be submitted to the executive.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Pierre] We are here to hold elections. To hold elections is our essential function. Thus, we are constantly thinking about elections. However, we do have a general calendar. It is this general calendar that we set forth in our first message to the nation on 19 May. It is this same calendar that we went into in greater detail in the 12 June message.

We set forth an ensemble of tasks, and we put them in the order in which they must be addressed. Objectively, this is what constitutes the calendar, even if we have not yet set a date to these things. We are still thinking about the actual calendar—I mean, the period for the electoral operations themselves, which is the actual electoral calendar. This week, especially, we have been very seriously studying...

[Reporter, interrupting] But don't you have anything written yet on these coming electoral operations?

[Pierre] No, but I mean, we are reflecting upon it, studying the matter. The matter has been brought up during all the contacts we have had with organizations from the civilian society, unions, and so forth. We are hearing what all the other citizens think, and it is with this objective in mind that we have asked, as we announced in our latest message, the political organizations and figures to come join us once again, so that we can continue to study this further—so we can study this in terms of the means at our disposal, so that we can propose an agenda.

You must not confuse things. Remember, the actual calendar has a time; there is an official phase to it, which is as of the official convocation. It is up to the executive to make that convocation, at the proposal of the Electoral Council, which is going to officially announce it. [preceding two sentences as heard] [end recording]

To date, the CEP's organic law, approved by the executive, has been promulgated and published in [the official gazette] LE MONITEUR. The particular status of the CEP's personnel, being written up now, will be submitted to the executive in the near future, before the CEP is installed definitively in the building that used to house Sonavesa [a car dealership] in Delmas, currently occupied by approximately 50 refugee families.

To proceed with the electoral process little by little, stage by stage, is, thus, the principal task this third version of an electoral council has set for itself, according to the CEP secretary general. Jean Gerard Pierre explains: We intend to proceed in a fully independent manner—independently of the executive as well as of political parties and foreign powers.

Further on CEP Activities

FL0707133689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In a press release issued yesterday, Wednesday [5 July], the Provisional Electoral Council proposes to meet with Haiti's political groups and parties 7-14 July, from 1000 to 1500. These meetings will be held at the Legislative Palace. [passage omitted] We will have you listen to [CEP member] Pauris Jean-Baptiste in an interview with [journalist] Jean-Marie Ferrari.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Ferrari] Recently you asked for funds, which were finally unblocked. Can you tell us how the CEP has used this money?

[Jean-Baptiste] [Passage omitted] These funds permitted us to pay some of the expenditures that we had already begun to make, because I must also tell you that before we received the funds, each member had used his own personal money for his own expenses. For example, let's say we go to the provinces. We spend money for gasoline. And when we did other things, took other trips, we paid for them ourselves, out of our own pockets, because we wanted to get the work under way. So, when they gave us this money, certain reimbursements were made.

Also, we had no four-wheel drive vehicles, so we bought some four-wheel drive vehicles for the CEP. And I would like to stress—for there is a rumor circulating to the effect that the vehicles are for the CEP members—that no, the vehicles are not for the CEP members. They are for the CEP as an institution. We did not buy them in the name of any member. They were bought in the name of the CEP. That means that I have a vehicle (?that the CEP has) put at my disposal; however, as soon as my mission is over, I will give this vehicle back to the CEP. It is not mine.

I think it should be made clear to everyone that the vehicles that we have do not belong to the CEP personnel. They belong to the institution. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Regarding the CEP's headquarters, Mr Jean-Baptiste told us that the government has already chosen the building that used to house Sonavesa [car dealership that belonged to the family of Michele Bennett Duvalier], in Delmas. That is where the CEP's definitive headquarters will be. Here, again, is Pauris Jean-Baptiste.

[Begin recording] [Jean-Baptiste] [Passage omitted] President Prosper Avril has told us that the government has bought the CEP a building. Now, there are people living in that building, so...

[Ferrari, interrupting] You mean the...

[Jean-Baptiste, interrupting] The Sonavesa building. They bought it. I must also tell you that we have been informed that the building belongs to the Banque de Paris. It seems the government has bought the building from the Banque de Paris and is going to give it to the CEP. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Brother of Politician Murdered; Government Blamed

FL0807153489 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1000 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Some criminals broke into the residence of Dr Turneb Delpe [secretary general of the National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti] on the night of 5 July and killed Delpe's younger brother, 26-year-old Gregory Delpe. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Turned Delpe] [Passage omitted] [crying is heard throughout in the background] The noise had come from inside our house. It was my father. The thieves had broken into his room—at least 2 of them. I don't know how many there were in the house. They had pressured my father, it seems, and he was yelling, thinking to awaken the neighborhood. [passage omitted]

They said: Aren't you a political leader? Hand over all the money in the house. Besides, you have just returned from New York. You can't tell us you don't have any money. It is you people who are giving Avril problems [words indistinct] you are keeping the government from working.

[Reporter] When they said this to you, did they use your name?

[Delpe] No, they didn't. But they said.... [changes thought] because the guy who said this to me had a hood over his face. But one of them was not wearing a hood. His face was uncovered. The guy with the hood had a rifle, type M-1 or M-14. The other guy had a (?Mekanika)-type weapon. (?Mekanika's) are very similar to Uzi's but are not Uzi's. It is more or less easy, in the United States, as you know, to, when you look in books, it is easy to (?recognize) weapons, (?by) leafing through books in the United States. That's how I recognized the kinds of weapons they had. [passage omitted]

Regardless of what people say, I just don't think that the insecurity that has spread all over Haiti is just a matter of criminality. I think it is also linked to the political situation in the country. I have always said that they are not yet ready to come at us. They would rather create general insecurity, so that the government's hand in it won't be spotted. But I think the final objective is to get

the political leaders. Since public opinion in general, both national and international, is now convinced that these are acts of banditry and don't link it to politics too much, even if a political leader falls victim, it will appear to be a chance happening, among all the other things happening. I think it is a tactic, because the guys who came to commit this act said: You are political leaders. You are keeping the government from [words indistinct]. We will destroy (?you). [passage omitted]

[Reporter] But how can you explain the fact that they didn't kill you yourself?

[Delpe] I am wondering myself. [passage omitted] Or perhaps they didn't want it to look like a purely political crime, and they preferred to disguise it. Because they know that once they hit my house as they have, I myself have to back off. Or that even if I didn't want to, there would be a number of pressures—family pressures and such—that would oblige me to now not occupy the place I would like to occupy in the foreground on the political scene. [passage omitted] To tell you the truth, I don't know. But that's how I interpret it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Student Group Condemns Murder

FL0807154089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The murder of Gregory Delpe, a member of Feneh, the National Federation of Haitian Students, caused great consternation yesterday among the student population. [passage omitted] The students of the faculty of sciences and of the national directorate of Feneh yesterday expressed their condolences to the victim's relatives.

The students express, in their press release, their consternation over the death of their classmate Gregory Delpe.

Feneh feels the students' struggle must be linked to the Haitian people's struggle against insecurity, the high cost of living, and exploitation. Feneh asks the entire population to buttress the popular organizations, in order to once and for all put an end to this system, which spreads terror. [passage omitted]

Fires in Cap-Haitien, Saint-Marc 7 July

FL0807152189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Two fires last night caused serious damage in Saint-Marc and Cap-Haitien. Many houses were destroyed in Saint-Marc. Our correspondent will inform us about the Cap-Haitien fire.

[Correspondent Ronald Jean] Good morning. A gigantic fire raged in Cap-Haitien Thursday night, from (?17-S) Street to (?18-F) Street. The fire completely destroyed four houses. However, it was noted Friday at dawn that no one was killed.

Cap-Haitien awakened with a start when Radio Cap-Haitien broadcast, in an emotional news flash, the news that a house had been destroyed by fire on (?17-S) Street. One of the houses destroyed belongs to the (Monero) family, regional dealers for Mazda cars. Since there is no fire-fighting team in Cap-Haitien, the airport's firemen were on the scene. However, they arrived too late, in too old a [word indistinct]. The cause of this fire is at present unknown.

We remind listeners that last 14 January, an important building located on (?14-L Espagnol) Street was destroyed under identical conditions.

This is Ronald Jean in Cap-Haitien for Radio Metropole.

[Announcer] There was also a fire in Saint-Marc. Our correspondent tells us there was considerable damage. We will hear the details from him.

[Correspondent Lionel Exantus, in Creole] Eight buildings were burned to the ground: Saint-Marc's information office, (Burand) Dry Cleaning, Pharmacie de l'Amitie, the office of the justice of the peace, and four houses. The fire broke out at approximately 0100 this morning, Friday, on the main street in Saint-Marc—thus, in the center of town.

Alerted by the police, the population took to the streets, where they saw the fire, which began in the Antoine Paul house. Everyone is asking what the cause of this fire was. Despite the population's effort, the fire started in the first house, the house of Antoine Paul, and spread from house to house.

About a year ago, Saint-Marc got a fire truck, which came from Germany. There have been several fires in town while the town has had the fire truck. The fire truck is still there, but the population always puts out fires by hand. According to the population, the fire truck is just for show.

The fire, which began at 0100, was still burning at 0200. It burned down the building housing the information office, the office of the justice of the peace, Pharmacie de l'Amitie, and four other residential buildings. At exactly 0300, the Public Works people intervened, to distribute water to the population, which was trying to put out the fire, while making (?hostile) comments about the government and the civilian authorities of the town of Saint-Marc.

At 0345, a fire truck from Kenscoff City Hall (?arrived). By that time, the population had had time to control the fire. This fire truck finished putting out the fire. The final tally was eight buildings burned to the ground. It is for the time being impossible to (?evaluate) the material damages. There was no loss of human life.

The population is asking when there will be an end to this centralization with everything centered in Port-au-Prince! A town like Saint-Marc should have a fire hydrant for just such emergencies. This is really serious. The ball is in the pertinent authorities' court now.

This is Lionel Exantus, Radio Metropole, in Saint-Marc, lower Artibonite Valley.

BRH To Reduce Decline Rate of Gourde

FL0507170889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] The Banque de la Republique d'Haiti [BRH, the central bank] has announced that the monetary authorities will soon take measures to reduce the rate of decline of the gourde on the parallel market. The BRH asks economic operators to not allow themselves to be influenced by rumors that are hardly disinterested, which could further affect the stability of the national currency.

We must point out that the dollar is currently at 34 percent at exchange houses.

Jamaica

New Security Measures Introduced at Airport

FL0407215289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2202 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 3, CANA—New security measures were introduced on Monday at Kingston's Norman Manley International Airport.

A so-called "sterile area" means that people who accompany relatives and friends to the airport will not be allowed to wait with them in the check-in area. In addition, all luggage going into the "belly" of the aircraft as well as carry-on luggage will be x-rayed.

Airport Manager Keith Less told journalists that the measures were being taken to cut down on the risk of hijacking and of explosives and fire-arms being smuggled aboard the planes.

Earlier this year, soldiers were assigned at both international airports as part of the government's attempts to stem the flow of drugs out of the country on Air Jamaica, the national airline.

Upsurge in Contraband Entering Prisons

FL0507201589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1811 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 4, CANA—Prison officials here are cracking down on the smuggling of contraband into prisons by visitors. Commissioner of Corrections Juswyn Jarrett told reporters on Monday that the action was the result of an increase in the quantity of narcotic drugs and the number of dangerous weapons and articles which were intercepted in recent months by prison officials.

He displayed for reporters a number of knives, daggers, and handmade machetes made in prisons from hacksaw blades, iron bars, nails, wire, and metal strips taken from shoes. Ganja weighing about 15 pounds and a rope made from strips of cloth and fixed with a hook at one end were also displayed. Many of these items were smuggled in foodstuffs being taken by visitors to the institutions.

"Time is the greatest factor in the prisoner's favour. Having acquired a blunt piece of metal, an inmate doing a 15 year sentence can afford to rub this against the concrete walls of his cells, even once a night, until it is sharp enough to use as a weapon. He is in no hurry," the commissioner said. He said that rachet knives and other weapons and ganja were usually intercepted by sentries when they were thrown over the prison walls.

Previously, persons caught trying to smuggle anything into the prison were given a stern warning. However because of the upsurge in such activities, offenders will now be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, Jarrett said. In recent months, a number of prison warders have been injured in incidents involving some of these smuggled weapons. Last year a pick-axe, ice-pick, and a knife were used by prisoners who held two prison officers hostage during a riot at the St Catherine District Prison in Central Jamaica.

Government To Keep State-Owned JBC Stations

FL0407005989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2004 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 3, CANA—In a major policy shift from that of his predecessor, Prime Minister Michael Manley announced that the government would retain the state-owned Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) television and JBC A.M. and F.M. radio stations as national entities.

A Jamaica house weekend statement said the government would also allow private concerns to operate a national commercial television channel and another islandwide radio station.

The Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation operates the island's only television station, A.M. and F.M. radio channels, as well as three regional radio stations, two of which have been closed. Radio Jamaica Limited (RJR) operates the other national radio service.

Under the previous Seaga government's planned divestment programme, most of the JBC facilities were to be sold and licenses granted for two television stations. The then government indicated that it planned to retain the JBC's F.M. and A.M. radio service and a television

channel under a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) to provide educational programmes with emphasis on public affairs, culture, and sports.

Under the new media policy, PBS is to be absorbed into the JBC to develop and enhance cultural programmes, public awareness, and growth.

Last year the former government awarded several radio licenses. A firm called the New Radio Company of Jamaica received the license to run a national A.M./F.M. service, using facilities of the JBC. Licenses were also granted for three regional stations owned by the JBC-Radio West, Radio Central, and Radio North East. These were to operate on the F.M. band.

The statement said that the board of directors of the JBC had sought legal advice on the privatisation plans which indicated that the divestment of JBC "was ultra vires the enabling law." It was against this backgcround that the government had taken the decision to retain the JBC TV and radio services as national entities and to proceed with the sale of the three regional stations.

"We have taken steps to ensure that JBC TV and radio become truly national entities, free from partisan political control or manipulation," the statement said.

Manley had promised during the election campaign that he would "de-politicise" the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation. Successive governments have often been accused of manipulating the station to suit their own agenda.

On the licenses issued to the New Radio Company of Jamaica and the suit filed by the GLEANER Company which publishes the oldest daily newspaper here, the statement said the matter had been adjourned for the parties to explore a negotiated settlement.

When the licensees were announced last year, the GLEANER filed a suit claiming that the company's application was not fairly treated.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Fire Destroys Government, Commercial Property

FL0507160089 Bridgetown CANA in English
1715 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, July 4, CANA—A big fire swept through this capital town's business sector early Tuesday, destroying the offices of the commissioner of police and the immigration department as well as commercial properties. First reports of smoke rising from the back of the commissioner's office and the immigration department were made about midnight and within minutes there was a raging blaze.

Eyewitnesses said that it took fire fighters about eight hours to bring the blaze under control. It destroyed the Bay Street offices of immigration and the police commissioner, as well as two stores next door—Spratts Brothers LTD and Keyfoods Supermarkets—and spread to a back street wiping out the American Store on the ground floor and the offices of three lawyers on the top floor.

There has as yet been no official estimate of the damage but it is likely to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. There has also been no word yet on the cause of the fire.

The Carnival Development Committee met this morning and decided to go ahead with activities on the final day of the annual carnival festival. Some events were put back to accommodate the police who were involved in cleaning up at the commissioner's office. The Mardi Gras Parade of Bands and the gathering at Victoria Park—now dubbed Carnival City—are usually provided with police security.

Trinidad and Tobago

No State Funeral Planned for Butler Killer

FL3006213389 Bridgetown CANA in English
1605 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, June 30, CANA—Neither the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines nor the police there will accept responsibility for the funeral of Grafton Bascombe, the man who died of a heart attack shooting dead the Genadian acting police commissioner and an American political attache last Wednesday, according to the TRINIDAD EXPRESS.

The EXPRESS quoted editor of the Vincentian newspaper, Ellis Olliviere, as saying Bascombe's widow appeared "terribly upset" because both the St Vincent Government and police had been in touch to state their "unwillingness" to have anything to do with Bascomb's funeral.

Carmelia Bascombe told the VINCENTIAN that the Grenadian Government might have to bury her husband since she could not afford to have the body flown in from Grenada, where Bascombe was on loan to the police force.

She refused to comment of her husband's gun killing of acting Police Commissioner Cosmos Raymond and American Political Attache John Butler which allegedly followed a row over the use of American military aid funds.

The TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, meanwhile, said that Raymond was to be given an official state funeral.

The paper said it spoke to Grenadian Prime Minister Herbert Blaizes advisor, Albert Xavier, who said that the funeral was not likely to take place before next week while the authorities awaited the arrival of relatives from New York

Raymond, 45, had been acting police commissioner since the 1987 departure of Grenadian-born Russell Toppin, who is now practising law in Trinidad and Tobago.

Tapia Party Wants U.S. Ambassador Recalled
FL3006203589 Bridgetown CANA in English
1502 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, June 30, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's political movement wants American ambassador to Port-of-Spain, Charles Gargano removed for calling for changes to the country's controversial Aliens Landholding Act.

Tapia leader, Lloyd Best, on Thursday called a news conference to suggest government remove Gargano's accreditation following the strongest of the ambassador's comments to date on the issue.

Gargano, a businessman turned diplomat, last Friday said government should amend the act, which places limits on foreign investment in the twin island republic, if it wanted to encourage foreign investment.

The National Alliance for Reconstruction [NAR] government has been looking at such amendments since taking office two and a half years ago and recently sent out draft amendments to the private sector and the trade union movement for comment.

"Certainly it is high time that government complete whatever is the action it says it is intending but none of that can lend justification to Gargano's recent assertion of the doctrine of imperial responsibility," Best told reporters. "He may think that he was trying to be helpful but its not good enough," Best said.

"There is great peril in this kind of development as we can see in Panama and anybody who knows anything about Latin America will tell you that intervention and supervision are a very slippery slope indeed. They start with helpfulness, they start with interventions that appear quite innocuous and they end up with external control," Best remarked.

"I think we need to put our foot down very early and that is why Tapia has proposed that the government pull Mr Gargano up and withdraw his accreditation," Best, a political economist, said.

Best, who suggested the formation of the current ruling party and then pulled out before it took office, declined to comment on the Aliens Landholding Act and its proposed amendments.

He did say that Trinidad and Tobago needed to put its house in order since weak and ineffective governments invited intervention.

The United States Embassy in Port-of-Spain has refused to comment on the issue.

Best also predicted problems in Parliament for the ruling party based on what he referred to as the "lack of confidence" in the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

Best, who returned from overseas work after the NAR came to power, has, so far, ruled out proposed affiliations with the opposition People's National Movement (PNM) and a breakaway political party formed by dismissed NAR ministers.

High Commission in Guyana Closed; Reason Unknown
FL0507230189 Bridgetown CANA in English
2055 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 5, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Government has closed its high commission in Guyana after more than 25 years.

Reasons for the closure have not yet been made public here and staff at the mission, in the midst of packing to move out from their middle street premises Wednesday, told CANA that an official statement will be made shortly by the Ministry of External Affairs in Port-of-Spain. The only official word so far about the closure was contained in a notice published in local newspapers notifying members of the public that with effect from June 30, 1989, the Office of High Commissioner will no longer be located in Georgetown.

"The high commissioner will be non-resident and will be based at the Ministry of External Affairs and International Trade in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad," the advertisment said. The notice also advised that all correspondence and enquiries should be directed to the permanent secretary of the External Affairs Ministry in Port-of-Spain.

The high commission has had a relatively low profile since April last year when the then acting high commissioner, Mr Baden Semple, returned to Port-of-Spain.

Word about the closure of the mission has come at a time of stepped-up advocacy for member countries of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) to have active diplomatic representation in each others territories.

Wednesday's issue of the privately-owned "STABROEK NEWS" newspaper, for example, in a critique of Caricom identified the absence of such active diplomatic representation as one of the weaknesses in the regional integration process.

"There are ambassadors in far flung areas instead of closer to home, an indication of the lack of priorities," the paper said in its editorial.

The only other Caricom country which maintained a high commission here was Jamaica but the Jamaican mission was closed several years ago.

At present Guyana has no high commissions in the Caribbean but has honorary consuls in Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago and a recently appointed non-resident high commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean. Its high commission in Jamaica was closed about five years ago.

Coast Guard Responsible for All Security Vessels
FL0507143089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1816 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 4, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago, in a move aimed partly at curbing smuggling, has given its Coast Guard operational responsibility for the vessels of its other security services. Thirty-five vessels came under the control of the Coast Guard from last Friday.

Fire, prison, police, and immigration services have had separate marine units since Trinidad and Tobago gained independence in 1962. The change is intended to lead to more co-ordinated operations.

"Besides being an unnecessary and wasteful proliferation of arrangements and facilities for the location, command, operation, procurement, maintenance, and repair of these craft, it is also, I am ashamed to say, a waste of money," National Security Minister Selwyn Richard said. The vessels will be located at the north western peninsula of Chaguaramas, which has been renamed Hart Cuts Coast Guard Station.

Former Magistrate Loses Corruption Charges Appeal
FL0107165189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1617 GMT 1 Jul 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 1, CANA—Former Trinidad and Tobago magistrate, Patrick Jagessar, failed on Friday in his appeal against a two-year jail sentence for corruption. Jagessar, who has already spent one year in jail, in isolation from other prisoners pending his appeal, was told on Friday that his grounds for appeal could not be substantiated.

Trinidad and Tobago's three-man appeal court, headed by Chief Justice Clinton Bernard, said that Judge Anthony Lucky could not be faulted for his summing up the well-publicised case last May. Nor was there, the court ruled, any breach of the hearsay rules in the admission of evidence.

Jagessar made history last year, becoming the first magistrate in Trinidad and Tobago to be sent to jail. Found guilty of corruptly receiving a luxury motor car from a man whose case he had dismissed, Jagessar was sentenced to the jail term plus a TT20,000 dollar (one TT dollar: 23.5 U.S. cents) fine on May 10.

Throwing out Jagessar's appeals against the way his case was tried, the appeal court said in its 99-page judgement:

"The law is not a game. A careful prosecutor may resort to any process that is legitimately open to him provided that, in the view of the court, its probative value is not outweighted by its prejudicial value."

"Greed, sharp practice, perversity, and chicanery, it is said, sometimes reach unlimited heights and, on some occasions is no respecter of persons," Chief Justicd Bernard told the court in delivering the judgement.

"The Prevention of Corruption Act was intended to promote morality in public affairs by those who are entrusted with the management of it. The evidence in this case, in our view, shows a complete betrayal of that trust."

Jagessar will not begin his two-year sentence properly since he has been held in special premises pending his appeal. His request for bail for both his appeals had also been turned down. Jagessar still has pending an appeal dealing with a 17-year sentence for corruptly receiving money from the same man.

El Salvador

Cristiani on Armed Forces Role in Dialogue

PA0807045189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Report on statements by President Alfredo Cristiani on 7 July—place not given]

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said tonight that the Armed Forces will not be allowed to participate in the dialogue commission because this commission is political in nature and is not intended to negotiate a bilateral cease-fire. However, he said that he is ready to allow the participation of Armed Forces representatives in the peace dialogue in the future if he believes that their participation is necessary. Commenting on Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce's [Armed Forces chief of staff] offer to become a member of the dialogue commission, Cristiani said that the Army's participation has not yet been seriously considered.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We believe that this commission should be political and formed by politicians. I said some time ago that the participation of other groups in the commission would create some problems. We would then have to include other sectors as well. The commission would become far too large and would be difficult to manage. We also said that the Armed Forces, the church, and the labor, business, and professional sectors must be taken into consideration. They could even participate in this process directly to some extent. However, cease-fire negotiations would require the direct participation of the Armed Forces, but that is the only case when their participation is absolutely necessary. [end recording]

Cristiani added that it is the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] that is preventing a solution to the armed conflict from being reached by refusing to meet with the government commission.

[Begin Cristiani recording] This is proof that they refuse to seek peace through dialogue. In the past, they have used dialogue as an instrument for propaganda and to further their strategy. Their excuse that they will not talk to the commission because they do not like it is unacceptable. After all, we could also say that we do not like the people whom they send as their representatives, which would create an impasse. They are looking for the slightest excuse. Their purpose seems to be to raise obstacles. [end recording]

President on Plan To Protect City Residents

PA0907014289 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 7 Jul 89 pp 3, 19

[Text] The Salvadoran Government, in cooperation with the Armed Forces High Command, will implement a new plan to protect the urban population in response to increased FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] terrorist activity in areas with the largest populations.

The announcement was made by President Alfredo Cristiani after he met with the High Command on 6 July. They discussed the terrorist actions perpetrated by the self-styled urban commandos or metropolitan commandos.

Cristiani reiterated his conviction that Antonio Rodriguez Porth and Edgard Chacon were murdered by FMLN-FDR terrorists. He said: "The government will take adequate measures to protect both citizens and officials."

Asked about the dialogue commission, Cristiani said it will try to get in touch with the FMLN-FDR and seek peace as soon as possible. He regretted that some political parties, trying to protect their particular interests, refused to become members of the commission and adhered instead to the communists' views, thus becoming accomplices of the FMLN-FDR in the terrorists' attempts to establish a warmongering apparatus.

Asked if he thinks that Esquipulas II is too simple a document to propose solutions to a conflict as complex as that of El Salvador, Cristiani said yes, but added that his government feels it can find ways to fit the plan to the circumstances during the meetings.

Cristiani also said his government is considering the possibility of treating El Salvador the same as Nicaragua in the sessions because it is unfair to think that only the Sandinists have the right to have their resolutions considered. El Salvador believes it is complying with everything stipulated by Esquipulas II and maintains that Nicaragua is not.

On legal amendments to combat terrorism, Cristiani said they are only a revision of procedures and penalties, rather than substantial reforms that affect freedom of thought, as the lefist groups, who have sometimes been backed by some foreign media, have portrayed these changes.

Cristiani praised the recent activities of the Armed Forces' rapid deployment battalions, such as Bracamonte in Chalatenango and Arce in San Miguel, which have dealt heavy blows to the FMLN-FDR terrorists.

Cristiani on Coffee Prices, Presidential Summit

PA0707131489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara on statement by President Alfredo Cristiani at the National Police Headquarters, in San Salvador, on 6 July—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said on 6 July that our country will be seriously affected by the drop in international coffee prices, but he said steps could be taken to help dampen the effect.

[Cristiani] "I believe that coffee prices will experience unusual price fluctuations, especially when you consider the resounding impact of freeing coffee prices and then having all the coffee reserves suddenly hit the market. This effect will be only temporary, as I believe that prices will slowly rise; we will not suffer any long-term problems.

"Thank God that over the short term, we expect a good coffee harvest, which may, to a certain degree, counter the drop in prices. It is regretable that the agreement has collapsed and prices have dropped so much. Obviously, with coffee being our economy's backbone, this drop will soon have a negative effect."

[Guevara] The Salvadoran president appeared before the media on the 122d anniversary of the founding of the National Police, which was celebrated at the main headquarters. The Salvadoran president stated that he has accepted 7 August as the date for holding the Central American summit, and that he expected the summit to direct more attention toward our struggle.

[Cristiani] "El Salvador has complied and continues to comply with all the Esquipulas II Accords, especially those concerning strengthening the country's democratic process and trying to find a solution to the armed conflicts and to our own conflict in El Salvador. Regretably, in our case, we have not received a positive reply from the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], but you all know that the government has been completely willing to hold talks."

[Guevara] The Salvadoran president watched the swearing-in of a new group of National Police recruits during this anniversary. Some administrative personnel were also sworn in. The president personally presented medals to the mothers of those who have fallen in combat, as well as to heroes of the conflict.

Armed Forces Chief Comments on Trip to U.S.

PA0807235089 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Report by Carlos Mario Marquez]

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Salvadoran Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated today that the Salvadoran Army is carrying out a military offensive to pressure the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] into a dialogue with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's government.

During a news conference, Col Ponce talked about important events and especially about counterinsurgency operations being conducted throughout the country and about air and land patrol operations, which began in San Salvador on 4 July. Col Ponce stated that the movement of helicopters over San Salvador is part of those patrol operations.

Col Ponce also mentioned the creation of a human rights office within the Armed Forces to consolidate the Salvadoran democratic process.

While assessing his recent trip to the United States, where he visited the Pentagon, the National Security Council, and the U.S. Congress, Col Ponce said:

[Begin Ponce recording] I want to tell you that my trip to the United States was very positive. I found a completely changed atmosphere, perhaps due to the visit of several private sector members, progovernment Salvadoran politicians, and the Salvadoran Church. I believe their views have influenced U.S. public opinion and some politicians. They have a completely different impression of the [words indistinct]. We specifically discussed the progress we have made in the political field. We talked about respect for human rights and strengthening the country's democratic process.

I was also told that they [not further identified] also recognize the Armed Forces' increased professionalism.

I also noticed the U.S. Government is willing to continue to help our country economically and militarily knowing that the Salvadoran people and their Armed Forces are struggling to defend democracy, freedom, and human rights in El Salvador.

I can describe my visit to the United States as timely, because the U.S. Congress is presently discussing a [word indistinct] of military aid for El Salvador. I can also tell you that the U.S. Vice President is personally interested in the Central American situation he knows what is happening in our countries in detail.

I can describe my visit to the United States as very positive, fruitful, and timely. [end recording]

Answering questions of various reporters, Col Ponce released the 1 May-30 June military report stating that the Armed Forces participated in 608 clashes, carried out 6 ambushes of FMLN units, and destroyed 29 guerrilla camps and 27 guerrilla logistical centers. Col Ponce added that within that period there were 3,691 patrol operations and 5,999 ambushes. He said 8,272 checkpoints were set up throughout the country and 13,218 security operations were conducted.

Col Ponce admitted that 87 soldiers were killed and 210 wounded in that same period. He added that in June alone, 222 FMLN rebels were killed and 273 were wounded. He added that 600 FMLN rebels were arrested and 9 others surrendered to the military authorities.

When asked about the suggestion by some Salvadoran groups to declare a state of siege, Col Ponce said that after studying the suggestion with President Cristiani and the other members of the High Command, they concluded that a state of siege was not suitable at present.

Answering questions on recent patrol operations in San Salvador which have alarmed the population—especially those who are told to get off the public buses they are riding—in several areas, Col Ponce said the Armed Forces is checking and inspecting vehicles throughout San Salvador to counteract the guerrilla movement's terrorist actions. Similarly, Col Ponce stressed that rebel attacks in San Salvador have decreased in the past few days.

Col Ponce again accused Nicaragua of supplying the Salvadoran guerrilla movement and of providing them with logistical assistance. Col Ponce reiterated that the FMLN General Command operates from Nicaragua.

Ponce said the murders of Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, Edgar Chacon, and the Salvadoran attorney general were carried out by an FMLN unit directly led by the FMLN General Command in Managua.

Radio Venceremos on Recent Rebel, Army Clash

PA0707143889

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0005 GMT on 7 July broadcasts an approximately 25-minute report on recent fighting between Salvadoran Army forces and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas.

The station begins by reporting on clashes "that started at 1400 on 4 July, at El Morro Junction, Primavera farm, Tecomatepeque Jurisdiction, which resulted in four casualties to Military Detachment No 5." The announcer adds that "at 1025, guerrillas attacked a National Guard patrol at Suyapa, El Coco Junction, where we confirm one casualty." The station continues with a report on two casualties to the Libertad Battalion troops in a guerrilla attack at 0445, at Mejapa Jurisdiction.

The radio reports that "at 0845, guerrillas ambushed Military Detachment No 2 troops between Ilobasco and Sensustepeque at Santa Lucia Canton, Cabanas Department." The station adds that there were 11 casualties and a truck was destroyed. Continuing, the announcer notes that "at 0100, we sabotaged three primary electric poles from the 5 November hydroelectric dam at Cerro Miguel, Ilobasco. At 1945 another brigade downed three more primary electric poles from Cerron Grande." The announcer continues: "Three main power line poles were destroyed on lines that run through the San Diego farm in Metapan Jurisdiction, Cabanas Department."

The announcer then reports on clashes in Santa Ana, near the Sosa cement plant, saying: "At 0800 on 5 July, a sharpshooter inflicted one casualty. At 1000, a Sosa cement plant security guard was killed. At 1600 that same day, paramilitia at El Carrizalillo were attacked with people's artillery. No details on casualties are available at this moment." The announcer adds that at 0600, two casualties were inflicted on the Civil Defense and at 1030, guerrillas sabotaged five cement trucks.

The report then covers activities in San Marcos, the department's capital: "On 3 July, urban commandos ambushed a National Guard truck, which was destroyed with a mine. There was an undetermined number of casualties." The station continues with further ambush reports: "At 0845 on 4 July, at San Vicente, a National Guard vehicle was ambushed. Three Jose Manuel Arce bombs were set off, causing 10 casualties." The announcer adds that at 1405 on 5 July, there were two casualties caused by mines set against the Soriano Battalion, at La Cruz, at San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction.

At 0042, the station reports FMLN activities in the northern part of San Miguel Department: "At 1500 on 4 July, our units attacked Cuscatlan Battalion units near the Los Laureles junction, San Luis de la Reina Jurisdiction, San Miguel Department." The announcer continues by reporting that "after an hour of fighting, the enemy was reduced to only two positions, then two helicopter gunships and one A-37 airplane arrived on the scene, but thanks to our antiaircraft fire they were ineffective. Fighting continued until 1900, and the enemy took advantage of the dark night to scurry away. Our units chased them to near the town of San Luis de la Reina. We caused 12 casualties—4 dead and 8 wounded. One of the dead soldiers was the radio operator. We captured 3 M-16 rifles, 3 combat kits for M-16 rifles, 600 rounds of ammunition, 2 radio batteries, 5 knapsacks, and other materiel."

The station reports that "at 0945 on 6 July, FMLN columns began an operation called: Comrade Flavio, your blood was not shed in vain; we swear we shall win. The operation consisted of strikes against 1st Infantry Brigade's Soriano Battalion at La Cruz, San Jose Guayabal. There were 17 casualties; the section chief was among them. The following materiel was captured: 2 M-16 rifles, 8 knapsacks, 4 U.S. Claymore mines, and 40 M-79 grenades. This fight lasted half an hour."

The station also reports that a helicopter was damaged on the Chilanga runway, San Francisco Gotera, Morazan Department at 1200 on 5 July. The station cannot confirm any casualties, but reminds listeners that this is the fifth helicopter to be damaged.

The report concludes by reporting the death by ambush of four soldiers belonging to Military Detachment No 4's Lenca Battalion, at 1230 on 6 July, after they stepped on Jose Manuel Arce mines. The announcer says this took place on the old road leading from Delicias de Concepcion, Morazan Department.

More on Fighting

PA0707160289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] According to a military report, due to counterinsurgency actions carried out by the Salvadoran Armed Forces against the FMLN over the past few hours, the Salvadoran Army inflicted 4 rebel casualties and confiscated 28 rifles of various calibers.

According to the report, two rebels were killed and two were wounded during clashes with Army units in Delicias De Concepcion, Morazan Department. Also, the Armed Forces confiscated 16 rifles found inside a [word indistinct] in Santa Elena, Usulutan Department.

During a combing operation, Artillery Brigade units confiscated 12 rifles the rebels were hiding in the area of Ciudad Arce, La Libertad Department. Finally, civilian sources reported that a C-47 plane and a UH-1H helicopter attacked FMLN positions near Suchitoto this morning. The results of this attack are still unknown.

Guatemala

Cerezo on Purchase of Planes From Italy

PA0807033689 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Jul 89 p 5

[Text] Regarding the purchase of planes from Italy for the Guatemalan Armed Forces, President Vinicio Cerezo said: "It is sometimes so difficult to get Americans to sell us some things we need that we must find them elsewhere."

President Cerezo explained: "We are buying these planes from Italy because we have been granted credit for a 20-year period at an interest rate of 0.2 percent. This is practically a donation. It would be foolish not to buy those planes. We are not taking a single dollar from the Guatemalan people; on the contrary, Italy is providing the dollars. The fact that it is sometimes so difficult to get the Americans to sell things to us compels us to turn to other countries. We are entitled to do so because we are autonomous."

New Military Attache Appointed to Colombia

PA0707140289 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 6 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] General Julio Cesar Ruano, who was commander in Huehuetenango until 30 June, has been appointed military attache to Colombia.

Gen Ruano has been commander of the paratroopers, commander in Poptun, Peten, Huehuetenango, and other places, and chief of staff under Head of State General Mejia Victores.

In another aspect of his life, Gen Ruana, who is also an actor, plays the role of General Justo Rufino Barrios in a Channel 5 production.

According to Guatemalan military analysts, Gen Ruano has been appointed to a military attache position described as "important."

To the Guatemalan Army, the most important military attache positions are in Washington, Bogota, Mexico City, and San Salvador.

The High Command of the Guatemalan Armed Forces (its power hierarchy) remains unchanged. By law, President Cerezo Arevalo is the commander-in-chief of our country's Armed Forces.

General Hector Alejandro Gramajo Morales continues as defense minister, but his new deputy minister is General Raul Molina Bedolla.

General Manuel Antonio Callejas is defense chief of staff and his deputy is General Juan Leonel Chavez.

[EL GRAFICO, in another item also on page 3, carries a report stating that General Roberto Mata Galvez, Colonel Julio Fidencio Otozy, Colonel Luis Rios Mejia, and Colonel Rolando Lazo Azurdia have been appointed commanders in the departments of Huehuetenango, Quiche, Quetzaltenango, and Jutiapa, respectively]

Honduras

Abolition of Executive Decree Requested

PA0907141789 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 7 Jul 89 p 6

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez has ordered Defense and Public Security Minister Colonel Wilfredo Sanchez Valladares to ask President Jose Azcona Hoyos to "abolish" an executive decree that grants special treatment to high-ranking officers.

When making the announcement, Gen Regalado Hernandez regretted that the Executive Branch decree "is being politicized" and that the president is unjustly condemned for having endorsed the decree.

Decree E.M.H.033, which will be abolished [as published], had granted benefits to high-ranking officers, former military commanders, and the president of the republic as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The benefits granted to these officers had included: "a vehicle, a chauffeur-bodyguard, the right to carry weapons, free fuel, and medical care."

However, various political sectors have described the decree "as a slap in the face of the Honduran people, who are, at this very moment, struggling amid an economic crisis."

In rejecting the charges, President Azcona Hoyos said the Executive Branch would not be responsible for covering these expenses, adding that the decree only made official those rights the Armed Forces members had already earned.

Gen Regalado Hernandez said the presidential decree "was nothing extraordinary," because it entailed no "extra expenses" and had been signed "in good faith" by the president. The Armed Forces commander regretted that "things become difficult when they are politicized."

He announced that "to end these speculations, which are sometimes ill-intentioned, I have ordered the abolition of that executive decree." Gen Humberto Regalado said the minister of defense and public security had already been ordered to ask the president to abolish the decree, because "we are going through a phase in which we tend to interpret everything incorrectly."

Nicaragua

UNO Not To Send List for Regional Councils

PA0807224289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1629 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Managua, 7 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—A political source reported today that Nicaragua's National Opposition Unity (UNO), comprised of 14 political parties, will not send a list of candidates to form the nine regional electoral councils because the government "rejects" the resumption of dialogue with the opposition.

The Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), the organization that will run the electoral process in Nicaragua, extended until today the deadline for the opposition to present its list of candidates to make up the electoral regional councils in the country's interior.

Today, Jaime Bonilla of the Independent Liberal Party and member of the UNO negotiating commission, told ACAN-EFE: "We will not send a list of candidates to make up the regional councils because the government rejects our request to resume the dialogue."

The government and the opposition suspended their talks in April 1988 because the Sandinists refused to make substantial amendments to the constitution, promulgated on 9 January 1987.

Bonilla warned: "If the regional councils are formed without UNO participation, there will be friction and political tension between the government and the civic opposition."

He conceded that if these councils are formed and contain no UNO members, "there will be no possibility of supervising the electoral process."

The electoral process, which will end with the general elections on 25 February 1990, is at the stage where regional council members are chosen. These councils link the vote receiving boards with the CSE.

The CSE, headed by Sandinist Mariano Fiallos, is tasked with organizing and supervising elections, plebiscites, and referendums whenever they are held.

UNO March Canceled Because of 'Repression'

PA0907133389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2314 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Managua, 8 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today, the UNO, the main opposition bloc in Nicaragua, announced that an anti-Sandinist demonstration scheduled for 9 July in the northern part of the country will not be held " because of problems of repression."

Adan Fletes, adviser of the Democratic Party of National Confidence, told ACAN-EFE that party leaders who traveled to Ocotal, 220 km north of Managua, to organize the demonstration were briefly detained by police. Fletes said that leaders of other parties composing UNO, founded in mid-June, were also "victims of repression" by the Ocotal military authorities.

The Social Christian leader said the military did not authorize the UNO demonstration, arguing that the opposition bloc lacks legal status.

He added that the Ocotal police warned that authorization for the march should be requested by a legally registered party and that activists of other parties would be allowed to participate in the demonstration.

Fletes added: In addition, the authorities warned us that if the march were held, it should be held after 1400 (2000 GMT) and only through the streets in Ocotal's outskirts.

Fletes said the reason for this limitation on the march was that the police authorized a "parallel" demonstration by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the party in power, for the same day, which will be carried out in Ocotal's downtown area.

The Social Christian leader asserted that through this measure, the government "is violating" the agreements signed by the Central American presidents that guarantee the demonstrations by the parties.

Panama

U.S. Army Tanks Deploy at Fort Amador 8 Jul

PA0807220189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2116 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today, the U.S. Army South stationed in Panama deployed 20 armored personnel carriers and combat helicopters in a Panama City area known as "Fort Amador," where General Manuel Antonio Noriega's command post is located.

According to the U.S. Army South press note, the deployment occurred after a bullet was fired at a U.S. colonel's residence in that zone.

According to the U.S. Army South, the bullet was fired from an AK-47 rifle that "apparently came from a Panama Defense Forces [FDP] building nearby."

An FDP spokesman rejected the U.S. version, which he termed "an unjustifiable armed deployment."

The source denounced to ACAN-EFE that what occurred is "a continuation of the U.S. Army's intimidation campaign against the FDP" and announced that a protest note would be sent.

U.S. military authorities announced that they had verbally protested the incident, "given the threat it represents to U.S. families and children living in Fort Amador."

The "Fort Amador" incident follows others that have recently occurred, in which the U.S. Army has carried out spectacular deployments of troops, armored vehicles, and helicopters near the capital.

In a statement today, U.S. Army South Commander Marc Cisneros advocated U.S. military intervention in Panama to force Gen Noriega's departure from the FDP command.

Television Denounces Deployment

PA0907012189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2345 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] In a threatening display, U.S. Army troops, under the orders of [U.S. Army South commanding General] Marc Cisneros, entered the Fort Amador military coordination area this morning and parked 24 tanks in front of the COGECODESE [General Command of the Defense and Security Commission] offices. The excuse for the operation was an allegedly fired shot. Cisneros' actions have surpassed the levels of common sense that must prevail when this type of war equipment is deployed, because it not only endangers Panamanian civilians, but also U.S. citizens who go to the Fort Amador Golf Club to relax.

The action carried out by the U.S. Army today, a day when the Panamanian people relax along the causeway at Fort Amador—access to the area is not easy for the Panamanian people—is further proof of the disregard Marc Cisneros' feels for the Panamanian people and of his desire to spill our people's blood and destroy them.

The interventionist and provocative action of the Yankee aggressors also proved that while the Panamanian members of the Combined Board were relaxing in the area with their families, U.S. occupation troops were arrogantly and irresponsibly parading through the area, endangering the safety of all those who were there and in the surrounding areas.

The U.S. troops, following orders of Marc Cisneros—who wants to become the sixth horseman of the Apocalypse—also parked tanks at the entrance of the military coordination area while U.S. helicopters flew over the area in an intimidating and threatening manner. There were a few seconds when a helicopter stopped in mid-air to coordinate, from the air, the movement of troops and war materiel. This new act of arrogance by the U.S. Government and Army proves that they intend to invade our nation. It was a criminal and unstable action by a great power against a small country. Today's act of intimidation is added to the acts of psychological aggression that the U.S. Army has practiced against the Panamanian people, such as the recent occupation of Gamboa and the IDAAN [Institute of National Aqueducts and Sewers] Water Purification Plant in Chilibre. Combined Board members Colonel Aristides Hassan and Lieutenant Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon were at the COGECODESE offices when the tanks and troops passed in front of the building. Col Hassan compared today's incident with the intimidating actions that General Custer practiced against the Indians when the U.S. West was being won. Col Hassan warned of the dangers of an armed confrontation that becomes more imminent in light of the arrogant provocative attitude of the U.S. Government.

[Begin recording] [Hassan] What you have just seen is something unheard of. Marc Cisneros is trying to imitate General Custer and the 7th Cavalry; he must think we are Indians. He has deployed 24 tanks throughout this Panamanian area, a military coordinating area, in a threatening manner. The excuse they have used is that a shot was fired. That is unheard of in our history. Cisneros is a very dangerous man for Latin America.

[Reporter] Colonel, what are the Panamanian authorities or the Combined Board going to do?

[Hassan] We are following the guidelines set by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, our commander. We will not be provoked. We will tell every international forum about this new action. I think it will force them to hear what we have to say. This is no longer a problem for Panama; it is a problem for Latin America. You can see them, arrogantly and with disregard, driving their tanks along our national highways and through civilian towns.

For the Panamanians in general, we are all part of a history with roots. Like the rest of indigenous America, we forced the Spaniards out of our homeland. I think we are reliving this same history again, this time in the 20th Century. In the 21st century, we will have another invader to remove from our land. This time it will be the armed North American imperialist. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Lt Col Arnulfo Castrejon discussed the role the media must play when such incidents occur. He said the media must help prevent fear among the people.

[Begin Castrejon recording] When the media reports these things, it should always tell the truth and avoid inflicting greater fear among the people. These U.S. Army actions frighten the people, and this is dangerous. We are trying to

control our troops and our forces in order to prevent them, as Col Hassan has said, from falling into an ambush or falling into a trap that would result in an armed confrontation provoked by them against our Panama Defense Forces and our people. It is our people who will suffer if there is an armed confrontation. Not only will the soldier give his quota of sacrifice, but the lives of many people will be endangered.

As Col Hassan said, this is no longer a Panamanian problem. It is an international problem, and the friendly countries of Latin America must do their part to curb these U.S. actions against Panama. [end recording]

The U.S. troop's provocations in the past few weeks, designed to sow fear among the people, must make us clearly aware of the magnitude of U.S. imperialist aggression. It must make all the Panamanian people aware of the deadly designs of the U.S. Government and Army against our people and must help consolidate unity among Panamanians in defense of national sovereignty, dignity, and independence of our homeland.

Solis Palma Departs for Menem Inaugural 6 Jul

PA0707171489 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Jul 89 pp 1,18

[Article by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] President Manuel Solis Palma left for Buenos Aires last night to attend the inauguration of President-elect Carlos Menem, a ceremony to be held at the Argentine presidential palace on 8 July.

Solis is accompanied by a small delegation comprised of Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter; Jose Maria Cabrera, the Panamanian Ambassador to the OAS; Legislator Alfonso Sotero Govea, vice president of the Assembly; Hugo Giraud of the Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; and Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Arosemena King.

According to a bulletin issued by the Panamanian Presidency last night, the presidents of Peru, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil will also attend Menem's inaugural. Menem will receive the presidential sash from outgoing President Raul Alfonsin 4 months ahead of schedule because of Alfonsin's resignation. The Argentine president was unable to continue to cope with the hyperinflation affecting his nation.

Addresses Political Crisis

PA0807225489 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2215 GMT 8 Jul 89

[By Agustin Fuentes]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (REUTER)—Acting Panamanian President [title as received] Manuel Solis Palma stated here today that if his country's political situation is not solved by 1 September, the present authorities should continue in their posts.

"We would need to have continuity of authorities until an agreement is reached," Solis Palma said following an hour-long meeting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega after they both attended the inauguration of new Argentine President Carlos Menem.

Solis, who is backed by Panama's strongman General Manuel Noriega, said that Panama "cannot be left without authorities" when his term, and that of the assembly that chose him, ends on 31 August.

The crisis began when Panamanian electoral officials, alleging U.S. interference, annulled the 7 May elections to choose new authorities.

The opposition claimed that it won by a three-to-one margin and demands that power be turned over to it.

An OAS commission travelled to Panama twice, but was unable to find a solution to the crisis. OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, who also attended Menem's inaugural, said yesterday that this commission will have to present a report on 19 July, but that the crisis will not end as long as Panamanians do not reach an agreement.

Solis Palma said that he agrees with Baena and reiterated that his government is willing to talk with the opposition and other Panamanian sectors. He added: "The opposition is saying the same. However, it establishes a condition that is somewhat difficult to meet. It wants to be declared the winner in the elections instead of sitting with us to discuss how to transfer power."

Meanwhile, the formerly prosperous Panama has been experiencing a terrible economic crisis for the past 2 years, since the U.S. Government retained quotas for the use of the Panama Canal and withdrew its substantial financial aid.

Supports New Elections

PA0907172389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1704 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jul (EFE)—Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency, told EFE today that "the very existence of the nation is at stake" because of the U.S. "interventionist policy" in his country.

The Panamanian political opposition, he said, "is committed to surrendering our sovereign rights." Therefore, "turning over power to it means we would be dismantling our policy of sovereignty, which is represented by the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties."

The chief of the Panamanian Government yesterday attended the inauguration of Peronist President Carlos Menem.

Solis Palma said the OAS meeting on 19 July will try to "bring all sides to the negotiating table to decide the course of events." However, he expressed pessimism about that possibility, because, he said, "each time we approach the table, the opposition states it won the 7 May elections and that we should transfer power on 1 September."

He said that his position is that "we should achieve a national agreement to hold new elections," although he pointed out that in Panama "what is at stake is not a change from one government to another but the very existence of the nation."

Solis Palma said "the fight against Noriega (commander of the Panama Defense Forces) is aimed at destroying the main resistance to U.S. interventionist policy."

Manuel Solis Palma said conditions to hold elections in his country "did not exist because of the economic aggression we were suffering, which affected and still affects our people."

He also said that the "disinformation, which was essentially promoted by the United States," had predicted far in advance that the opposition would win. Therefore, "if it did not win, it would be able to charge there had been a huge fraud."

Solis Palma said the U.S. troops stationed in the Canal area "have been intensifying its of acts of provocation in the past few days." The U.S. State Department policy, he said, consists of "pressuring Latin American countries and telling them that if they do not condemn and blockade Panama, the United States must intervene."

Solis Palma did not rule out the possibility that there would be a U.S. "military intervention" in his country, "if the U.S. policies of pressure and blockades fail." Nevertheless, he believes "there are phases the United States will pass through before it actually does this."

He also stressed that Menem's inauguration entails a "favorable" change in bilateral relations, "which had deteriorated because of President Raul Alfonsin administration's lack of understanding of my country's domestic situation in the last few months."

Reportage on Dialogue Between Political Parties

Communique Issued 7 Jul

PA0707194889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Communique issued by the Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon "representing the Panamanian Executive Branch" in Panama City on 7 July]

[Text] Panama, 7 July 1989

Government and Justice Ministry Communique:

Regarding the country's political situation, it is suitable to note that the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] member parties and the Authentic Panamenist Party have opened the way for dialogue in which the ADOC [Panama's Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] member parties should participate. The ADOC member parties should respond to the reiterated public calls that have been made to them. The ADOC parties should participate in that dialogue if they are truly interested in seeking and reaching a national agreement to benefit the country.

Up to now, the political parties that started the dialogue have held three meetings in which they discussed general topics and guidelines. At 1500 today, those parties will hold their fourth meeting at the Riande Continental Hotel. They will keep trying to reach a positive agreement through consensus of the parties involved.

We consider this a suitable occasion to reiterate the public call to the ADOC member parties to join the national dialogue without reservation and to serve the nation's interests in the best manner possible.

As it has publicly stated on several occasions, the Executive Branch will appoint its representatives to that commendable effort once all the government and opposition political parties meet with the noble intention of providing effective solutions to the country's problems.
Representing the Executive Branch:
[Signed] Rodolfo Chiari de Leon,, Government and Justice Minister

ADOC Absent From 7 Jul Meeting

PA0707234489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2229 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 7 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Two Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officers attended a meeting this afternoon called by Panamanian politicians as part of a national dialogue, but neither opposition representatives nor the top leaders of the progovernment coalition attended, and the meeting was postponed until 10 July.

Lieutenant Colonels Nivaldo Madrinan and Virgilio Mirones of the FDP General Staff told ACAN-EFE that they had attended the meeting held in a hotel on the outskirts of the capital as representatives of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander in chief.

Neither the three top leaders of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) nor any of their representatives appeared.

Also missing were Carlos Duque, Ramon Sieiro, and Aquilino Boyd, leaders of the progovernment National Liberation Coalition (COLINA), although representatives of their parties were present.

Nor were there Executive Branch delegates in attendance, although the Executive Branch announced today that it supported the call for a meeting and that it would "designate representatives to participate in this viable effort once all the political parties—both progovernment and opposition—have gathered together."

The unsuccessful meeting was coordinated by Hildebrando Nicosia, presidential candidate of the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) in the 7 May elections.

ADOC has so far ignored the meetings that COLINA and PPA leaders have held over the past week with the support of the government. Instead, ADOC has called for other meetings for a national dialogue.

The military officers and progovernment politicians who went to this afternoon's meeting declined to comment on the meetings proposed by the opposition, and did not say if they would agree to attend. [passage omitted]

ACAN on Dialogue Attendance

PA0807180289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Panama, 8 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Neither the progovernment political parties nor the Panamanian military attended a dialogue meeting today called by the opposition, which did not attend yesterday's meeting promoted by a small political group that was attended by the progovernment political forces and two lieutenant colonels.

The representative appointed by the opposition, Gilberto Guardia, left the nunciature today after waiting 1 hour for the arrival of the progovernment politicians or military representatives, who did not show up.

The opposition parties had invited the progovernment parties and the FDP to attend an initial meeting today to examine the possibilities of a dialogue to end the crisis that has plagued Panama since the annulment of the 7 May elections.

Guardia said that the opposition had not received "any answer." He stated he had been chosen "for this dialogue and nothing else," when he was asked if he was willing to attend a new meeting scheduled for Monday by the proregime parties and the military.

Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, one of the two officers who attended the other meeting on behalf of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, urged the opposition "to set aside any prejudices and foreign intervention and join the dialogue."

Madrinan, one of the officers most trusted by Noriega, and another Lieutenant Colonel, Virgilio Mirones, signed a communique with the parties inviting the opposition to attend Monday's meeting "without conditions."

Opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon rejected all possibilities of participating in the meeting called for on 10 July and described the meeting held by the progovernment parties and the lieutenant colonels representing General Manuel Antonio Noriega as a "comic show."

Arias Calderon told ACAN-EFE that the scheduled 10 July meeting "is an attempt by some civilian and military groups to cause confusion and to put up a smoke screen to cover their rejection of the tripartite dialogue suggested by the OAS."

The OAS agreed to mediate in the Panamanian conflict in order to promote "formulas of agreement" to end the current political crisis and to faciliate the "transfer of power."

After visiting Panama twice, the OAS mission, composed of three foreign ministers, will present a report to the OAS in Washington on 19 July. Arias criticized OAS efforts thus far. Arias said the OAS mission "restricted its assignment in an incomprehensible manner." He reiterated that the mission must return to Panama before 19 July.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, one of the mission members, said yesterday that another trip to Panama is unlikely. Cordovez insisted on the principle of nonintervention and asserted that the OAS cannot "go there [to Panama] and make statements as if it were an electoral tribunal and dismiss officials, as has been suggested."

Arias Calderon arrived in Panama today from Venezuela, where he met with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, one of the promoters of the original OAS mediating initiatives and an open opponent of Noriega.

Arias Calderon described his meeting with President Perez as "very positive" and said that Perez "has a very special interest in the OAS mission." According to diplomatic sources in third countries, Arias met with Perez to ask him to intercede with the OAS to convince its mission to return to Panama next week.

After two separate meetings were held, observers are very skeptical about the possibilities of holding an effective dialogue with the participation of all the parties involved before the next OAS meeting on 19 July

Daily on Talks

PA0807221189

[Editorial Report] Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish on 8 July carries three articles reporting on separate efforts by political parties to hold a "dialogue." In a 520-word article, staff writer Emilio Sinclair reports that "9 out of the 12 legally established" political parties met on 7 July for a fourth session of a meeting "convened" by the Authentic Arnulfist Panamenist Party (PPAA) "to explore formulas to solve the deepest crisis" in the history

of Panama. The report adds that the object of the meeting was "to discuss topics affecting the economic, social, and political development of the country that must be settled prior to 1 September."

The meeting, Emilio Sinclair adds, was attended by all the member parties of COLINA, the PPAA, and the FDP, which was represented by Colonels Nivaldo Madrinan Aponte and Virgilio Mirones. The article adds that member parties of ADOC were "noticeably absent" and that the Executive Branch "was not represented." The nine parties issued a resolution stating that they had decided to postpone their meeting until 10 July "to give an opportunity to the ADOC parties to join the 'Dialogue for a National Concerted Effort,'" the article concludes.

Meanwhile, a 700-word article by chief editor Juan Carlos Duque reports that "prominent businessman" Gilberto Guardia has been appointed by ADOC to represent the alliance at a "preliminary meeting" slated for 0900 on 8 July at the Nunciature to "iron out details, such as the place, time, and topics for a political dialogue between the ADOC, COLINA, and the FDP." The article adds that, on 7 July, Guardia was presented to the local and foreign press by former ADOC candidates Guillermo Endara and Guillermo Ford. At that time, chief editor Duque adds, Endara announced that the ADOC's invitation had been received by COLINA's former candidate Carlos Duque and the FDP. The article then quotes Endara as saying: "The ball is in their court now. We will not do anything if they do not want to talk." Endara also announced that the ADOC had notified the OAS of it's stand and stated that "there is no room now for demagoguery," the article adds. In his article, Duque adds that when he was asked by reporters about remarks by the Executive Branch and the FDP about accepting the annulment of the 7 May elections, Endara said that "he did not pay attention to statements made by the minister in charge of the presidency, because 'he is the one who is blocking the dialogue.'" The article concludes with a statement by Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Jose Sebastian Laboa to the effect that "none of the parties have requested his mediation," but that he has offered the nunciature as a site for the meeting.

A third, 350-word article by staff writer Claudio Herrera, Jr reports that Christian Democratic Party (PDC) Secretary General Ivan Romero feels it is "urgent" that the "counterparts of the awaited dialogue—the FDP and COLINA—agree to 'make the necessary arrangements to determine who will attend and when a negotiation will begin' to solve the national political conflict." The article adds that Romero "ruled out dialogue parallel to or different from the one proposed by ADOC, with the representatives of the three groups: the ADOC, COLINA, and the FDP." Romero also announced that PDC President Arias Calderon is in Caracas meeting with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, and is expected to return at 0800 on 8 July in time for the meeting slated for 0900, the report adds. Herrera concludes the article quoting an "unidentified spokesman for the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD)" who said party leaders met 7 July "to determine their stand concerning the proposal for a dialogue on 8 July at the Nunciature," but he declined to say who would represent the PRD at the meeting, although "he hinted that there might be a FDP representative."

Comparison of ADOC Issues Dialogue Proposal

PA0807154489

Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish on page a-12 of its 7 July edition publishes the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) "statement" regarding its proposal for a national dialogue.

The Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA Spanish version has been compared to the Panama City Circuito RPC Television Spanish report published in the Panama section of the 7 July Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 39, allowing for the following fills and variations:

Column one, first paragraph, first sentence, make read: [Text] In light of our people's thus far frustrated expectations regarding a dialogue between ADOC and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], we wish to state the following:

1. During its second visit to Panama, which ended on 15 June, the OAS mission suggested a tripartite dialogue among the ADOC presidential ticket, the FPD, and the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] presidential ticket on the basis of the 17 May OAS resolution issued at the end of the 21st OAS consultative meeting.

2. On 16 June, the ADOC presidential ticket agreed to that suggestion without conditions provided each party had the right to discuss all topics they considered essential. Five days later, on 21 June, the FDP responded positively to the OAS proposal through a note issued by the Foreign Ministry, which said that it also agreed with the OAS suggestion. The note was sent to the OAS and released to the public.

3. On 23 June, the ADOC presidential ticket invited the OAS mission to return to Panama as soon as possible to clearly establish significant aspects of the dialogue. In that way, the dialogue would begin immediately and would conclude on 14 July at the latest, because the OAS mission had to present a report on the fulfillment of its mandate at the 19 July OAS consultative meeting. On 29 June, the mission stated that it was willing to return to Panama when the parties involved had begun a process of negotiation. The mission said it would return to Panama to put the agreements reached by the parties into proper form.

4. A wide range of differing statements about the dialogue subsequently began to appear. Meanwhile, the Panamanian crisis worsened, our people's suffering became more intense, and the danger for our nation increased.

Under these circumstances and as representatives of the overwhelming majority of the Panamanian people, who supported us on 7 May, we specifically propose the following: (providing omitted introductory material.)

Column two, first paragraph, first sentence make read:

[new graf] Guillermo Endara, president-elect

Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president-elect

Guillermo Ford, second vice president-elect (deleting date of communique and providing titles.)

Argentina

Reportage on Menem's Presidential Inauguration

Paraguayan President Arrives

PY0707135689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1346 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (TELAM)—Paraguayan President, General Andres Rodriguez arrived at the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport shortly after 1030 (1330 GMT) where Argentine president Raul Alfonsin welcomed his Paraguayan counterpart.

Rodriguez has arrived to attend the inauguration of Carlos Saul Menem as president of Argentina. He received the 21-gun salute, a guard of honor of standard bearers, and a band which played the national anthems of both countries.

Menem Receives Soviet Delegation

PY0707141089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] President-elect Carlos Menem has said that disarmament is not an option but a necessity for world survival.

Menem made this remark while thanking Georgiy Tarazevich, a deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who is visiting the country to attend Menem's inauguration.

At the end of the meeting at a downtown hotel shortly after 1830, Tarazevich told the press that he handed President-elect Menem a document from his government that stresses the economic and political cooperation between the two nations.

Peru's Garcia Arrives

PY0707145889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1438 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (TELAM)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia arrived in Buenos Aires at 1130 [1430 GMT]. Argentine President Raul Alfonsin welcomed Garcia at the military base at the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport.

President Garcia was received by an honor guard made up of members of the three branches of the Armed Forces. He received a 21-gun salute. The national anthems of the two countries were also played.

Foreign Minister Susana Ruiz Cerrutti and Raul Alconada Sempe, Foreign Ministry secretary for special affairs, accompanied President Raul Alfonsin as he welcomed Garcia.

Panama Delegation Greeted

PY0707153389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1507 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (TELAM)—Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Foreign Minister Susana Ruiz Cerutti and other officials of the Argentine Foreign Ministry today welcomed Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma who arrived at the military base of Aeroparque International Airport at 1145 [1445 GMT].

The Panamanian president said upon arrival that Argentina "is a country that I have always admired for its independent and free foreign policy." He added: "I am deeply interested in the development of this nation and I hope that much better days lie ahead, not just because of the change of government but also because the Argentine people deserve it."

Solis Palma was given the customary honors upon arrival. His is just one of the foreign delegations arriving to participate in the presidential inauguration that will take place tomorrow.

Alfonsin Greets Zelenovic

PY0707154189 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1530 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (DYN)—Dragutin Zelenovic, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Yugoslavia [title as received] arrived in Argentina today to participate in tomorrow's presidential inauguration ceremonies.

Zelenovic was welcomed at the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport by outgoing President Raul Alfonsin and other officials. After meeting with Alfonsin for several minutes at the airport, Zelenovic went to a downtown hotel in Buenos Aires where he will meet President-elect Carlos Saul Menem.

Brazil's Sarney Arrives

PY0707154889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1536 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (TELAM)—The airplane carrying Brazilian President Jose Sarney, who will attend Carlos Saul Menem's inauguration as president tomorrow, landed at the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport at 1225 [1525 GMT]. Sarney arrived in Buenos Aires on board a Brazilian Air Force Fokker F8 plane.

Alfonsin Greets Sanguinetti

PY0707191689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1906 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (TELAM)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti arrived in Buenos Aires at 1555 [1855 GMT). Sanguinetti will attend Carlos Saul Menem's presidential inauguration tomorrow.

Outgoing Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Foreign Minister Susana Ruiz Cerutti received Sanguinetti at the military base of the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport.

The national anthems of the two countries were played, Alfonsin and Sanguinetti reviewed the troops, and they then went to the VIP hall of the airport.

21 Gun Salute Welcomes Ortega

PY0707200889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1950 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (TELAM)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived at the metropolitan airport today at 1630. Upon his arrival he was welcomed by President Raul Alfonsin.

Ortega was welcomed with a 21-gun salute. After the Argentine and Nicaraguan national anthems were played, Ortega and Alfonsin reviewed the troops.

More Delegations Arrive

PY0807012689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2121 GMT 7 Jul 89

[All names as received]

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (NA)—The presidents of several Latin American countries today agreed on the need to demand a solution to the continent's foreign debt problem, which they consider responsible for the serious socioeconomic situation in the countries of the region.

Most of the Latin American presidents who are here to attend the transfer of power from Raul Alfonsin to Carlos Menem emphasized that the foreign debt prevents the development of the region and restrains their economies.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega called on Latin American countries to maintain "permanent contact to face common problems." He also emphasized the "Latin American spirit of the Argentine people."

Ortega was the last president to arrive in the country. He arrived only a few minutes after Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who made no comments to the press.

Most of the Latin American delegations arrived from their respective countries at the Ezeiza International Airport and were taken to the Aeroparque Airport for the protocol welcome by Argentine officials.

The Argentine officials were led by President Alfonsin, who carried out his last official acts before leaving his post.

In addition to the six Latin American presidents, officials from other countries are also here, including Japanese Deputy Keiko Obuchi; French Minister Michel Durafour; Spanish Vice President Alfonso Guerra; Saudi Arabian Prince Nawwaf ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud; Bolivian Vice President Julio Garret Ayllon; Cuban Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz; U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher; and Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Georgiy Stanislvovich Tarazevich, among others. [passage omitted]

Chile's Aylwin Meets Officials

PY0807030389 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Relay from Buenos Aires by special correspondent Manola Robles]

[Excerpts] Patricio Aylwin was welcomed to Argentina with a rally at the door of Ezeiza International Airport. Yesterday Aylwin was nominated sole candidate for president by the Coalition of Political Parties for Democracy.

Shortly after arriving at the international airport, Aylwin met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, with whom he held a brief talk. We wish you good luck; we are certain that the Chilean people will know how to decide, Ortega told Aylwin.

Aylwin answered: we hope that the Chilean people will also support the return to democracy in our country. Later, Aylwin met with outgoing Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. [passage omitted]

At this moment, Aylwin is at a meeting with Argentine President-elect Carlos Menem.

Many reporters are at the meeting place, hoping to hear Aylwin's opinion regarding future relations between Argentina and Chile, and also regarding the political situation in Chile. Aylwin's first activity tomorrow will be a private meeting with Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

Menem Meets Presidents, Delegations

PY0807034489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0055 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (NA)—Carlos Menem, who will become president tomorrow, met today with the presidents of Brazil, Uruguay, Panama, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru. The issues discussed were the foreign debt and bilateral relations.

He also met with Henry Kissinger and members of the official U.S. delegation.

Menem, who stayed in suite 603 of the Alvear Palace Hotel all day, also met with political leaders of Bolivia, Syria, Chile, Kuwait, Spain, the PRC, and other countries.

In the morning Menem met with the U.S. delegation, led by Commerce Secretary Roberto Mosbacher, who was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman and Jonathan Bush, President Bush's son [as received].

Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez was one of the first presidents who met with Menem, in midafternoon today.

Rodriguez said that the conversation with Menem dealt with "the new cordial relations between the two countries" and the "new ways for cooperation between Argentina and Paraguay."

Brazilian President Jose Sarney said that he told Menem that "my country through the government [words indistinct] on what position to take on the foreign debt and common problems."

Sarney said Menem, who made no statements today, told him that "the integration between their two countries will be one of the basic points of the Argentine foreign policy," which will be guided by Domingo Carvallo.

Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti said that "the prices of Argentina and Uruguayan products are currently distorted. [no closing quotation marks as received]

He emphasized that the upcoming economic adjustment in Argentina "is very important" if we keep in mind that fuel prices "here are about $0.05 to $0.06 per liter, while in Uruguay and Chile they are $0.60. This creates an abnormal situation."

When Sanguinetti was leaving and Daniel Ortega was arriving, there was an incident between a DYN reporter and a civilian who identified himself as Andres Sanchez of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Federal Police.

The incident occurred when the reporter tried to interview Ortega but Sanchez took him by his coat and asked him for his documents.

Despite the fact that the reporter handed over his identification card and credential, the police held him on the 6th floor, where police officer Guillermo Armetano, chief of Menem's bodyguards, said that the issue was closed.

Daniel Ortega, who was wearing a green shirt, praised Menem's "American spirit" during the meeting. Ortega said that Menem "is determined to take the country out of its crisis."

Manuel Solis Palma, Panama's minister in charge of the Presidency, said that the meeting with Menem was held "in an environment of great Latin American brotherhood" and that he took this opportunity to ask for "the understanding of all Latin American presidents about U.S. aggression against Panama."

Peruvian President Alan Garcia confirmed his position against paying the foreign debt and proposed the creation of "a consortium of debtor countries."

Garcia said that his confidence in Menem was strengthened after the meeting. He added that integration "is a demand and an obligation in the face of poverty, because Latin America has always been bled and degraded."

Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Errazuriz said that he has "faith in Argentina and in the new government." He also said that a meeting between Menem and General Augusto Pinochet is "possible" because "it would be useful" to the relations of the two countries.

Garcia, Ortega Hold Talks

PY0807170889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Telephone relay from Buenos Aires by special correspondent Pepe Tasara]

[Text] President Alan Garcia began his busy agenda today by receiving Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in his hotel room at the Plaza Hotel early this morning. Ortega was accompanied by the Nicaraguan foreign minister.

The main topic of the two president's discussion was the peace process in Central America. The two presidents discussed ways for the countries of the region that have been involved in conflicts for many years to return to the path of peace and development.

The two presidents also reviewed the activities of the Group of Eight and the upcoming meeting in Lima where the Group will discuss the Esquipulas II peace traty.

Last night the president visited President-elect Carlos Saul Menem who in a few hours will be sworn in as president. Menem was proclaimed president by Congress yesterday in anticipation of the constitutional date after former President Alfonsin resigned. President Garcia met with Menem for over 40 minutes. The president talked about Peruvian foreign policy since 1985 and the consequences of the rapid growth of the years... [announcer says telephone relay interrupted for technical reasons]

Legislature Convenes

PY0807123489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1212 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (DYN)—The plenary meeting of the Legislative Assembly reconvened at 0900 [1200 GMT] today with Senator Eduardo Menem presiding. The meeting was adjourned yesterday after the assembly proclaimed the victory of the Menem-Duhalde ticket at the presidential elections. Today the assembly will accept the resignations of President Raul Alfonsin and Vice President Victor Martinez.

The legislators of the various blocs began to arrive at the Legislative Palace at 0700 today. They formed groups and waited at the Pasos Perdidos Hall for the session to begin. The congressional building was placed under heavy police surveillance beginning at 0500. Police units, armored vehicles, and ambulances were deployed as part of the operation.

Legislature Accepts Resignation

PY0807124689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1236 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (TELAM)—The Legislative Assembly that convened at the congressional building adjourned until 1030 [1330 GMT] when President-elect Carlos Saul Menem is scheduled to arrive to take the oath of office.

The assembly adjourned the session at 0920 after accepting the resignations of President Raul Alfonsin and Vice President Victor Martinez.

Menem Takes Oath as President

PY0807143489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1425 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (NA)—President Carlos Menem took the oath of office at 1125 [1425 GMT] today before the Legislative Assembly that had convened for this purpose.

Amid a highly emotional atmosphere, Menem received greetings from congressional leaders and is getting ready to address his message to congress.

Menem Receives Presidential Symbols

PY0807172289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1711 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (NA)—At 1410 [1710 GMT] outgoing President Raul Alfonsin turned over the symbols of power to incoming President Carlos Saul Menem during a ceremony held at the White Hall of Government House.

The ceremony was attended by foreign guests, members of both incoming and outgoing cabinets, and relatives of the new officials.

Menem's Inaugural Address

PY0807162089 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1427 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Speech by President Carlos Saul Menem after taking oath of office before the Legislative Assembly in Buenos Aires—Live]

[Text] Honorable National Congress, illustrious chiefs of state, sisters and brothers of all nations, fellow countrymen: I want to mark this momentous occasion we are now experiencing with a call. I want to address my first words as a president to heaven to offer God and the observing eyes of history our strength, our most vital hopes. I want to call on Argentina and the Argentine people: Argentina, arise and walk. Argentines, arise to put an end to our crisis. Argentines, open your hearts to make our will one. Sisters and brothers, join your voices to tell the world that a new and glorious nation will rise. [applause]

This government of national unity that is now being born is based on a primary principle, on a reality that must be admitted by us all. Only thus will we all be able to overcome the difficulties.

To a certain extent, we are all responsible for the great Argentine failure. This crisis can only be counteracted if all of us, together, start to perform the thorough and positive changes that our country needs. We will build the homes we deserve on these ruins. We will build ourselves and our children a new fatherland on the ashes of this broken land. We will gather courage and force from this crisis that has been paralyzing and consuming our country and will thus firmly build the path that leads to a future that will fulfill us with pride and security.

I will tell each worker, youth, businessman, woman, retired worker, serviceman, man, and child that there is an empty place for you to occupy and help construct our future. These empty places are waiting for each one of us.

Once and for all, we must speak the truth, and no one can be offended by this truth. Argentina is not doing well. Argentina is broken. In this historic moment, the reconstruction of this nation is being started by us all. Solemnly, I proclaim before my people that, as of this very moment, the time for reuniting all Argentines has come. This is the moment for national reconquest. Man by man, meter by meter, piece by piece, community by community, institution by institution, soul by soul, one by one, we must make sure that the country in which each person fought every one else no longer exists. We will now build a country in which all will work for the benefit of everyone. [applause]

Therefore, as I address this honorable congress, I want to make my voice heard in each home, to make it reach each heart. I want to thus share each meal and embrace each Argentine and each non-Argentine who is living in these hard, dramatic, decisive, and important times.

I do not bring to you easy promises of prompt solutions. I do not bring to you simplistic demagoguery. I do not bring to you either deceit or pretense. I come to you bringing reality which is the only truth. All I can offer my people is sacrifice, toil and hope; I repeat, sacrifice, toil and hope. All I can promise is that I will be the first to display austerity, to work, to bite the bullet, to make the effort, an effort which all, not just a few, must make.

There are no two ways about it. The country is in bad shape, it is partially destroyed. The legacy we are receiving is tantamount to holding a red-hot coal in our hands. We are facing a burning reality which hurts, besieges us, and requires urgent solutions. Inflation has risen to terrifying heights. The habit of speculation is consuming the products of our toil. Production is lower today than in 1970. The rate of investments is negative, and education is a luxury to which few have access. Housing is a utopian dream of the past. Hunger is an everyday thing for millions of compatriots, and unemployment is a plague spreading throughout our society. We are all to blame for this.

Sorrow, violence, poverty, and neglect are knocking at the doors of a great many Argentines, of many brothers who nowadays cannot even feed or dress themselves properly, get an education, or make an honorable living. They are knocking at the doors of millions of people whose wills have been broken in a country which has witnessed its standard of living declining dramatically. These are the facts, gentlemen. This is the way things are.

However, I do not want my inaugural address to be full of complaints, lamentations, and resignation. My initial words are not meant to be tears shed over the Argentina of the past. I hope that my address will be a song of hope about Argentina's future. My speech is not a cry of sorrow over what may have been. It is a call for imagination, for creative toil, for faith in the future, and not for nostalgia for the past.

Now that everyone is listening to me, I could take the time to detail each of our problems, our shortcomings, our shameful statistics. I could point an accusing finger and become the prosecutor of a political failure. I could become the critic of the story of a fall. I could resort to figures that show the unbelievable decline of our nation. However, this would be redundant; it would be untimely and useless. My words would be pointless because each and every Argentine is perfectly aware of the extent of our current crisis which defeats every effort and destroys everything.

The citizenry is aware that I am not lying when I say that we are experiencing a painful and lengthy crisis—the worst, deepest, and most serious crisis that we remember. However, this crisis is not an excuse; it is an opportunity, it is a challenge. I have not come here to talk to you about the time that has been wasted. I have come here to call you to participate in the birth of a new era, a new opportunity, perhaps the last we will ever have, perhaps the most important, decisive, and key opportunity in our time.

The most beautiful country is the one we have yet to build. The most glorious day for us is yet to begin. [applause]

Our most promising future does not depend on what will happen, but on what we will be able to build together, all united. This is the challenge we Argentines are facing—the challenge of being able to transform this crisis into a fertile scenario.

This is the time for reflection and imagination. This is the time for ideas, as well as for creativity and boldness. This is the time to eliminate what is decrepit and welcome what is beginning. This is the time for creative boldness, innovation, and courage.

The Argentine people have chosen the path of democracy with a social accent. The Argentine people have chosen liberty and justice, peace and development.

The Argentine people have opted to transform our decadence, to overcome our petty disagreements, and to mount a collective effort.

The Argentine people have voted for the epic of national unity. Therefore, ours is a government of national unity. In our opinion, national unity is not strengthened by hegemonic projects, paternal attitudes, passionate fits, or fleeting emotions.

Government of the people, by the people, and for the people cannot depend on the mandate of a single man, the whim of a party, or the imposition of a sector. [applause]

The government of national unity is the property of all Argentines. No one can feel uninterested. No one can feel uninvited.

If Argentina is not occupying its proper place, it is not the country's but all Argentines responsibility. It should be blamed on our divisions, historic burdens, ideological prejudices, and sectarianisms.

We have been unable to formulate an honest balance of our country's victories and failures, its weak and strong points, and its mistakes and accomplishments.

This is the first lesson we have already learned together because the time of the worst underdevelopment, the underdevelopment of considering those who think differently an enemy, has ended in this country. [applause]

Thank God, the country where the law of the jungle prevailed has ended. The existence of both an official country and a submerged country has ended. The existence of both a visible country and a real country has ended.

I have come to unite those two Argentinas. I have come to struggle for the rendezvous of those two fatherlands.

I do not want to be the president of a faction, a group, a sector, or a political expression. I do not want to be the president of yet another frustration. I want to be the president of a united Argentina that progresses despite dissent. [applause]

I want to be the president of the Argentina of [Juan Manuel de] Rosas [a caudillo that dominated the Argentine scene 1829-52] and [Domingo Faustino] Sarmiento [Argentine President 1868-74], the Argentina of [Bartolome] Mitre [Argentine President 1862-68] and Facundo [Quiroga, a caudillo from La Rioja Province who was assassinated in 1835] [applause], the Argentina of Angel Vicente Penaloza [a caudillo born in La Rioja Province who was opposed to central control from Buenos Aires] and Juan Bautista Alberdi [an intellectual who was involved in drafting the 1853 constitution], the Argentina of [Carlos] Pellegrini [Argentine president 1890-92] and [Hipolito] Yrigoyen [leader of the Radical Civic Union Party and Argentine president 1916-22 and 1928-30], and the Argentina of [Juan Domingo] Peron and [Ricardo] Balbin [a well-known leader of the Radical Civic Union who ran for president in the election of 23 September 1973] [applause]

I want to be the president of reconciliation among brothers and not the leader of a new division. I have appointed to my government men from the broadest political ideologies for this task. We believe the nation has a common identity. We are convinced we have to build the country on our agreements and not destroy it with our disagreement.

From the deepest corner of my jail, during the most painful moments of my torture, and from the saddest side of my imprisonment, I asked the Lord to allow me to dream about a moment like this. I asked Him to make me open arms to my opponents and not to close fists to my enemies. [applause]

I asked Him for wisdom to build bridges of unity and not to raise walls of disagreement. Today I feel that my prayers are beginning to be answered. This is a government of genuine national unity, not a government for friends, or for those who look for easy ways out. My government will not be transformed into the headquarters for a political party. This government calls on all sectors and wants the best and most effective and constructive contribution from each sector. We have to break the infamous pact of living in egoism. We have to live by higher standards and speak thoughtfully and clearly.

We are not going to administer decadence. Together we are going to beat the crisis. We are not going to transform mediocrity. We are going to strive for excellence.

Sometimes courage is needed to proclaim a new idea. But much more courage is needed to accept an idea that is not your own. The stakes are high, I know, but I am absolutely convinced that without national unity we will not take off.

Our common future does not exist yet, but we have our present. This present shows us we need to close ranks, compound our efforts, and raise our goals toward a destiny of greatness.

Argentina without greatness is not really Argentina, because a nation without all its organs working together is not really a nation. I know this well. Many companions today expressed surprise at the generous offer we have made at all levels. I say to them: Unity does not mean uniformity; unity does not mean submissiveness; unity does not mean confusion. We make this call to all other political parties from a clear stand: We are not arrogant because arrogance is a luxury that only the foolish can afford. We are not naive, but neither are we stubborn.

Either we cure Argentina's illness together or the country will die. [applause] This is our cruel option. [applause]

This is the cruel decision we must make. That is why we cannot waste any time in starting to reconcile all Argentines. I will propose this reconciliation once and again. If necessary, I will relentlessly exhort the people to fight for it. I will repeat it at each home, to each family, to each district. Now is the time for each Argentine to lend a helping hand to his brother. Now is the time to start this chain that will overcome rancor, strife, resentment, pain, death, and the past. It is time for gestures of peacemaking, love, and patriotism.

In 6 years of democratic life, we were not able to overcome the cruel differences that divided us more than a decade ago. I say enough of these differences, and the Argentine people also say enough of it. The Argentine people now want to look ahead and be sure that they are working for their future and not burying themselves in the past. Together with all other Argentines, we will find a specific and definitive remedy to our unhealed wounds. We will not awaken the ghosts of discord; we will pacify the spirits. We will assure each Argentine that we will not stimulate clashes between civilians and military because both—civilians and military—are part of the Argentine people. [applause]

Our policy of national unity will not stop being implemented when we turn this painful page of our history. We firmly believe that there can be no real unity if there is no justice. We will therefore propose and implement a federal pact and a political pact, which will be the basis for a new type of political and social organization. In this

organization there will be no second-class citizens, cities, or provinces. In this organization, a child born in Quiaca Village, in Patagonia, or in the federal capital will have the same dignity.

Our country is clamoring for a more effective democracy, for development, for welfare. As members of the Justicialist Party, we cannot bring confusion onto the people by making our same old mistakes. To rescue these truths, we must raise our flags high and hold them up firmly so as not to betray our dearest convictions. To do it, however, we must also be humble because in politics, no one is the sole owner of the truth.

To achieve this goal, we must thus seek principles to unite us, instead of focusing on our differences. I believe in social justice, political sovereignty, and economic independence, [applause] but all Argentines share these ideals, believe in these same principles. We believe in all these principles too, but we also believe in the unpostponable need to readjust some of these principles to our current reality, in the need to implement new ideas and to support creative initiatives.

In our opinion, social justice requires that all types of privileges be eliminated—that impunity, perquisites, privileges obtained through excessive bureaucracy,speculation, and lack of training and capacity stop existing.

As a nation cannot exist without hope, real democracy cannot exist if some sectors of society are excluded from national life. Our first and greatest priority are those who cannot receive education; cannot share national dignity; have no right to be part of the national culture; have no jobs, no homes, no health service; and do not share in the national welfare. They show us that this democracy which fights for liberty and justice, must also fight to grant the people bread and peace, undertakings and production.

Social justice does not mean a distribution of poverty; it does not mean making everyone equally poor. Social justice means putting an end to our decline. The productive revolution that we have advocated throughout the country has one essential objective: to put an end to the Argentina where work had been banned. [applause]

In order to fulfill this national objective it is necessary to enact a number of firm and decisive measures capable of terminating speculation in the country. Social justice will therefore begin by our acceptance of an ineluctable fact: We are experiencing an economic emergency. We are in the midst of a true economic and social emergency. The country should be told about it in no uncertain terms.

We will not be able to overcome this situation without making an effort, an effort which will be equitable but shared by all social strata. No party has better moral and legal credentials than the Justicialist Party to enact such a policy. Our people know very well that if this government is asking them to make a sacrifice, then it is so that they can reap a reward later, so that there will be concrete results, a tangible improvement in their standards of living.

This is the future that we are not going to betray. Our patriotic duty, however, is to say this, to warn everyone, to make it clear: The results will not come as fast as we would like. However, we have the courage to make a pledge to our people: We will move in the right direction. We will walk hand in hand with the poorest and the most neglected people. We will put the economy at the service of the dignity of all Argentines. [applause]

Let this be clearly understood. The foremost battle that our economy must win is the one against hyperinflation, the main enemy of social justice. Inflation erodes salaries and well-being in thousands of Argentine homes. The frontal attack we are planning to launch requires the firm support and commitment of political, business, and labor union leaders who must back up our efforts and make sure that factional confrontations will not end up destroying the productive mechanism.

I would be a hypocrite if I were to deny this: Our economic emergency will require an initial stage of severe, costly, and harsh adjustments.

The point is that the Argentine economy has a rope around its neck and there is no longer room for hesitation.

For us, social justice will mean only one thing: to produce, to produce and produce; to work, work, and work. [applause]

Social Justice will dictate a system of clear-cut rules of the game with the appropriate rewards and punishments, and the changes that the country needs.

By breaking the perverse knot of the inflationary escalation we will be able to begin reactivation.

Let it be clear to all: As of today privileges of any kind are banned from Argentina. Just as in 1813 the founding fathers freed us from slavery, we come today to free all of us from privilege.

We will set the example at the government level. We will carry out major surgery to cut all the entrenched and intolerable inefficiencies in the government administration. We believe in social justice, and we will place the government at the service of the entire Argentine people.

We will establish the bases for national defense and will not defend crimes or kickbacks. We are founding a new state which is at the service of the people and not at the service of bureaucracies which are always making trouble instead of inventing solutions. [applause]

The participation of all sectors of society, a healthy administration, the participation of the consumer, and the abolition of all kinds of conflicts, are essential to transform the state, a state that is agonizing as a slave of the few, instead of helping those who suffer the most. Because the cause of social justice is also the cause of the purest federal system, I am announcing that we will assume an aggressive policy of public decentralization. [applause]

Anything that can be done by private citizens will not be done by the state; anything that can be done independently by the provinces will not be done by the state; anything that can be done by local municipalities will not be done by the state. To implement this authentic crusade for a definitive recovery of the public sector, I want to make a special call to all workers: I want them to know that the reforms are above all designed to favor the poorest sectors, to grant them better job opportunities, personal dignity, fulfillment and participation in national life. They will be the cornerstone of this change because they will be the ones to benefit most.

The Argentine people have a date with history. We will have to make a great effort to be up to our responsibility. This effort will begin with the restructuring of the central administration. This effort will not end there because it will affect the rest of society. We will be pragmatic, but will not make an ideology of it. We will be practical, but will not make a dogma of reality. We will be sensible, but will not forget that development is the real name of peace.

Honorable congress, an emergency economy will also punish tax evasion severely. I say this emphatically so that everyone hear. We will be generous and broad-minded to entice national and foreign capital to participate in our development in the best possible condition. We will also be inflexible with tax evaders.

Gentlemen, believe me, we will end the criminal activity of tax evasion, no matter the cost, no matter who falls in the process. [applause]

The entire world will also see how broad-minded we are. They will see clear and simple rules applied to productive investments. This government believes that true nationalism is a nationalism of growth, riches, and production. We are deeply nationalistic in the conception of our economic policies. We believe our economy cannot develop in the midst of poverty, backwardness, and international isolation.

We will set the example at the government level. We will carry out major surgery to cut all the entrenched and intolerable inefficiencies in the government administration. We believe in social justice, and we will place the government at the service of the entire Argentine people. We will establish the bases for national defense and will not defend crimes or kickbacks. We are founding a new state which is at the service of the people and not at the service of bureaucracies which are always making trouble instead of inventing solutions. [applause]

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Export policies, foreign trade policies, and investment policies will be aimed at the common objective of setting the basis for long-lasting development and real growth.

As we all know, because we have been suffering its effects, the foreign debt, which was imprudently contracted more than 10 years ago, is a heavy burden on the shoulders of the Argentine people. However, this debt is also a matter of honor for the Argentine Republic, as General Peron repeatedly said. [applause]

It will therefore be honored by my administration which will count on the cooperation of the creditors and the approval of the honorable members of this congress, as required by Article 67, Item 6, of the National Constitution. [applause]

We will request flexible ways of negotiating and a grace period to enable us to end the deficits, balance our finances, and implement the productive revolution that will enable us to export more, and thus create the necessary conditions to fulfill our obligations.

We will make it easier to recover and mobilize Argentine savings, which are being hidden in the country or deposited abroad.

We will therefore honor our commitments, but we will also call for understanding, solidarity, and prudence because in the current world, which is so interdependent, there are no isolated problems or problems that affect only a small group of countries.

As we have already proven, we are not afraid of creative boldness, of healthy rebellion, of political and mental transformations that can raise Argentina and make it stand on its own feet, that can free it from structures already overtaken by the dynamics of a world that never stops developing.

Argentines, brothers and sisters from all nations, at the initial stage of this new nation, economic independence means enabling this government to overcome our economic stagnation and to make development victorious. To achieve economic independence, we must pump oil, extract minerals from the earth, increase our exports, trade with the rest of the world at an egalitarian basis, create an autonomous space of decision, and transform the nation's will into action.

As Eduardo Mallea, one of our greatest thinkers, would say: Until recently, Argentina was a desert of words. I assure you, however, that from this moment on, Argentina will get rid of rhetoric, stagnation, and nonsense. We will speak through actions and deeds and not only through speeches. [applause]

For this government of national unity, political sovereignty is to make each Argentine the master of his or her destiny instead of making him or her a slave of pessimism and resignation.

Sovereignty means finding and exploiting all national resources and capacities through a real upsurge of individual and community initiatives, within the framework of a country in which there are real opportunities for all.

Sovereignty is making all Argentines take part in the construction of the fatherland. The first and most genuine revolution is the one that starts in the heart of each man and woman and makes them part of a broader national mystique capable of activating our most vital energies as a people.

We say no to the reign of hunger, the reign of illiteracy, the reign of illness. However, when we say no to all that, we are also saying yes to a constructive sovereignty that helps integrate us into the world. We say yes to a sovereignty that offers more opportunities than risks, more benefits than threats, more hopes than fears.

To be able to achieve all that, in handling our foreign policy, we will not accept any type of ideological barrier. The only barriers this administration will accept are those that protect and preserve peace and fraternity, the right to self-determination, and noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries. [applause]

Therefore, I have come to announce to the representatives of the people that from now on the crime of corruption in public administration will be considered treason to the fatherland. [applause]

We will both investigate past wrongdoings and be inflexible [applause] with our own officials [applause]. I want my administration to be an example of austerity, cleanliness, and patriotism.

The government of the people cannot be the property of its leaders because administrative corruption truly is a criminal act and as such it must be exposed to the conscience and the opinion of our citizenry.

Argentina must stop being a country of shady deals and become a country of large-scale enterprise.

Given the agonizing and urgent question: What is democracy for? I expect each one of my officials to respond: If democracy does not make people happier, then it is good for nothing. [applause]

If democracy does not contribute to our honesty, ability, and loyalty, then it isn't good for anything either.

This will be the mainstay of our administration. We will demystify politics. We will transform our administration into a daily plebiscite vis-a-vis dignity and decadence. We will break all taboos. We have not come to power just to warm a chair. We have come to power to serve our people, to give and not to take because, as Eva Peron used to say: To love is to serve. [applause]

We will not be stopped by temptations or by the false apostles of discouragement.

I prefer for my people to thank me for a century rather than to have flatterers applaud me for a year. [applause]

I do not intend to surround myself with friends of this democracy who are only able to praise it. I hope to have friends and companions who are also able to defend it.

I expect millions to rise as one when the time of tribulation and difficulty comes.

We are willing to keep this attitude in every area of our administration.

We will have the necessary conviction so as not to stop, slow our pace, spare solutions, or doubt.

Nonetheless, we will have the indispensable clarity not to walk in circles and become estranged in the cold and impersonal use of power. This will be an administration open to the people, close to their needs and hopes, and attentive to the demands and expectations of the entire nation.

Therefore, in this message as president, I did not want to provide you with a technical recipe, a recitation of instrumental measures, and abstract formulas to overcome our crisis. I thought it was better to describe the spirit and substance of the task in store for us.

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If democracy does not contribute to our honesty, ability, and loyalty, then it isn't good for anything either.

This will be the mainstay of our administration. We will demystify politics. We will transform our administration into a daily plebiscite vis-a-vis dignity and decadence.

We will break all taboos. We have not come to power just to warm a chair. We have come to power to serve our people, to give and not to take because, as Eva Peron used to say: To love is to serve. [applause]

We will not be stopped by temptations or by the false apostles of discouragement.

I prefer for my people to thank me for a century rather than to have flatterers applaud me for a year. [applause]

I do not intend to surround myself with friends of this democracy who are only able to praise it. I hope to have friends and companions who are also able to defend it.

I expect millions to rise as one when the time of tribulation and difficulty comes.

We are willing to keep this attitude in every area of our administration.

We will have the necessary conviction so as not to stop, slow our pace, spare solutions, or doubt.

Nonetheless, we will have the indispensable clarity not to walk in circles and become estranged in the cold and impersonal use of power. This will be an administration open to the people, close to their needs and hopes, and attentive to the demands and expectations of the entire nation.

Therefore, in this message as president, I did not want to provide you with a technical recipe, a recitation of instrumental measures, and abstract formulas to overcome our crisis. I thought it was better to describe the spirit and substance of the task in store for us.

In the coming days each minister and official responsible for the various areas of government will provide a detailed account of the condition in which they have received their respective portfolios and of the programs that they will carry out to implement the much desired changes. This enormous national emergency will require direct contact with the people at large. It will require an exchange of opinions and a fruitful debate that will permit the implementation of appropriate measures.

As of today each and every Argentine has the right and the duty to know what the government is doing. Each and every Argentine has the duty and right to demand openness, honesty, capacity, and clarity from the government officials regarding their actions.

People of my fatherland, people who have waited so long, people who display everyday heroism, people of unbreakable illusions, people of the new era: I have made a song of hope out of my campaign, and I expect to make my administration an act of faith. [applause]

I call upon all of you to walk hand in hand through this new era. I am aware that our path will be full of obstacles, doubts, and problems. The beginning will be very hard.

Nevertheless, I also know that when the people decide to start working they become invincible. We will demonstrate that we do not deserve our present poverty. We will demonstrate that we can build a fraternal fatherland together. Quoting Jorge Luis Borges, I would like to say that today Argentina cannot commit the worst of all sins: the sin of not being happy. Even though the sky is still cloudy and many sorrows loom on the horizon, it is worth recalling Leopoldo Marechal's remark: The people always pick up the bottles that are cast into the sea with messages from the shipwrecked. [applause]

Thus, on this inaugural day for all Argentines, I would like to call on God our Lord.

I pray to dream without becoming a slave of my dreams. I pray for love, because only love can give birth to the new Argentina. I pray for patience, so that my hope will not make me restless. I pray for wisdom so that I will not believe myself too wise or too stupid. I pray for prudence, so that I will act without forgetting the very poor. I pray for humility, so that I will not believe myself either too powerful or too weak. I pray for peace, the better for me to hear the voice of the people which is the voice of God, a voice which today rises in prayer, a plea, a moving call: Argentina, arise and walk. [applause, cheers]

Interview With Menem

PY0707034489 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jul 89 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with President-elect Carlos Menem by reporter Alfio Beccari at La Rioja Province Government House on 4 Jul]

[Excerpts] ESTADO—Is it true that Brazil is the first country you will visit?

Menem—Yes, I am going to visit Brazil shorlty after I take office. Although the date has not yet been set, it will be before I go to the United States in September. [passage omitted]

ESTADO—One of the most important issues of the Argentine crisis is its foreign debt, calculated at approximately $56 billion. Do you see any chance of solving this problem jointly with other indebted Latin American countries, such as Brazil?

Menem—Yes, I think it is quite possible, but not for the time being. For a start, we will treat our problem alone. We are going to talk with our creditors and try to reach a bilateral agreement. Later on, as part of the integration I support, we will probably start tackling this problem jointly.

ESTADO—Is there any chance that Argentina may suspend payment of the debt or of the debt's interest?

Menem—All this is being discussed with our creditors. Anything is possible. We are going to try to fulfill our international commitments, but always within reason. We must also allow for the development and growth of Argentine economic potential. That is, obviously, best for our creditors. If Argentina does not grow and develop, it will not be able to honor its commitments.

ESTADO—You have said that in order to be able to start this growth, it will be necessary to inject $2.5 to $3 billion into the country. Where will this money come from?

Menem—It may come from various sources—for example, from Argentine enterprises that have invested astronomical amounts abroad. We will try to get them to reinvest that money here. It could also come from foreign enterprises, banks, or foreign treasuries.

ESTADO—Is anybody currently interested in investing in Argentina?

Menem—Everyone is willing to invest in countries that enjoy two basic requirements: stability and a secure peace. Unfortunately, Argentina is not in a position to offer those guarantees. But it will be, as soon as we implement our economic program.

ESTADO—When will the first effects of this plan be noticeable?

Menen—I think in 2 and ½ to 3 years time.

ESTADO—What will be the first economic measure implemented by your government?

Menem—Undoubtedly, it will be the great salary increase [salariazo]. Before anything else, we must cushion those millions of Argentine citizens living in misery. We must correct one of the Alfonsin government's greatest mistakes, which led to the economic disaster. When he came to power, there were 3.5 million poor people in Argentina; now there are 9 million.

ESTADO—How will you go about carrying out the announced privatizations?

Menem—As I have already said, we will start by privatizing the National Telecommunications Enterprise, ENTEL. It will be followed by others. This process will be carried out through agreements with the political parties, the labor unions, and the national government. [passage omitted]

ESTADO—Argentine newspapers recently published photographs of Admiral Emilio Massera, former member of the government junta that governed during the

military dictatorship. He was photographed freely walking along Buenos Aires streets, although he has been sentenced to life imprisonment. How do you explain this?

Menem—If he is free, it is either because the court has ordered his release or because the laws currently in force have been seriously violated. All this will be thoroughly investigated.

ESTADO—Will this affect the solution of the military problem by your government?

Menem—By no means.

ESTADO—Persecution of military personnel belonging to leftist parties is part of Argentine history. What will it be like during your government?

Menem—There is no reason to fear. Argentina did not explode entirely, because the organized workers unions (Peronism) prevented it from happening. Clashes between the leftist sector and the extreme right were no more serious than they were because the workers union remained calm. I do not understand why so many people fear persecution by us. I spent 5 years in prison. Alfonsin didn't even spend one day in prison. I was tortured and banished. However, people call Alfonsin's government democratic and call us totalitarians. Come on, let us be more fair. In the entire history of the Argentine Republic, the Justicialist Party was the only one to be proscribed and persecuted. Out of the 30,000 people who were murdered or who disappeared during the military dictatorship, 28,000 were Peronists. We have always been victims rather than hangmen.

ESTADO—But you seem willing to forgive your hangmen: that is, the military officers currently in prison.

Menem—The thing is that I feel no hatred or rancor against anybody.

ESTADO—How will the military problem be solved? With an amnesty, pardon, or plebiscite such as in Uruguay?

Menem—The court must solve the problem. The solution will be disclosed after 8 July. This problem will be solved before the end of the year. [passage omitted]

ESTADO: Are you willing to discuss the Malvinas Islands' problem personally with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher?

Menem: Yes, I will talk with her anywhere. This issue is one of my government's priorities.

ESTADO—What does Argentina expect from Brazil regarding this subject?

Menem—I hope that Brazil will back us in this struggle—but not in a conflict, because we are tired of war. Too much blood was shed in 1982. We are now going to struggle through diplomatic channels. And one thing everyone can be sure of is that: sooner or later. [sentence as published]

Sanguinetti Departs for Home

PY1007005089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1512 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jul (TELAM)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who this morning departed for his country, said that President Carlos Menem held a meeting today with the Latin American president at the Uruguayan Embassy "during which the international situation, especially regarding Panama, was discussed."

In remarks at Aeroparque airport, Sanguinetti said that President Menem's inaugural address was a message of "unity and concord, which was well received by the public, for which we feel reassured."

Government Reorganized, New Officials Sworn In

Foreign Ministry Restructured

PY0707203089 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1128 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (DYN)—Foreign Minister-designate Domingo Cavallo has issued a report on the new structure of the Foreign Ministry that will become effective on 10 July.

It was also announced that Dante Loss has been designated public relations director and Adrian Gomez will be the foreign ministry spokesman.

According to the minister's report, the Foreign Ministry will have four secretariats: Juan Archibaldo Lanus will head the Foreign Relations Secretariat, Mario Campora the Multilateral and Special Affairs Secretariat, Raul Carignano the Latin American Affairs Secretariat, and Angel Miguel Centeno the Worship Secretariat.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat will include Hector Sainz Ballesteros as foreign policy under secretary, Juan Carlos Sanchez Arnau as bilateral economic negotiation under secretary, and Rodolfo Antonio Iribane as administration under secretary.

The Multilateral and Special Affairs Secretariat will include Jorge Enrique Taina (Junior) as special affairs organizations under secretary, and William Rolando Otrera as multilateral economic negotiations under secretary.

The Latin American Affairs Secretariat will include Jose Luis Fernandez as Latin American relations under secretary, and Juan Schiaretti as Latin American economic integration under secretary.

Institutional Relations Under Secretary Juan Carlos Pezoa will be directly subordinated to the foreign minister.

Secretaries of State Sworn In

PY0807214489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1840 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem's cabinet ministers, the presidential secretary general, and the mayor of Buenos Aires were sworn in during a ceremony at the White Room of Government House.

This is the list of the cabinet ministers who were sworn in by Carlos Menem today:

Interior Minister Eduardo Bauza, Foreign and Worship Minister Domingo Cavallo, Defense Minister Italo Argentino Luder, Economy Minister Angel Roig, Public Works and Service Minister Jose Roberto Dromi, Education and Justice Minister Antonio Francisco Salonia, Labor and Social Security Minister Alberto Jorge Triacaf, and Public Health and Social Action Minister Julio Cesar Corzo.

Presidential Secretary General Alberto Kohan was sworn in afterwards.

All ministers used the usual words in their swearing in oath: "For the Holy Bible, for God and the fatherland" to swear in. Kohan, on the other hand, swore in "for God and the fatherland."

The president also swore in Buenos Aires Mayor Carlos Grosso.

Menem Swears In Secretaries

PY0807154589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1844 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem swore in the new secretaries after swearing in the new ministers in the White Hall of Government House.

The following secretaries were sworn in: Gustavo Beliz as secretary of public affairs; Juan Bautista Yofre as secretary of state information; Jorge Raul Rachid as secretary of press and broadcasting; Moises Ikonikoff as secretary of planning; Raul Enrique Granillo Ocampo as secretary of legal and technical affairs; Omar Fassi Lavalle as secretary of tourism; Raul Matera as secretary of science and technology; Fernando Nicolas Galmarini as secretary of sports; Humberto Toledo as presidential spokesman; and Manuel Mondino as head of the National Commission for Atomic Energy.

The ceremony in the White Hall of Government House ended after Mondino was sworn in.

Caceres, Julia Head Army, Air Force

PY0807032489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0044 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 July (DYN)—Tonight, Defense Minister-designate Italo Luder officially informed General Isidro Bonifacio Caceres and Brigadier Jose Antonio Julia that President-elect Carlos Menem wishes to appoint them as Army and Air Force chiefs, respectively.

A few hours before the inauguration of the new president, the appointments of the Navy commander and the chief of the Joint Staff are still under study.

Today, Gen Caceres ended a week of maneuvers in the Mesopotamian Region, where he commanded II Corps troops.

Gen Caceres immediately flew to Buenos Aires, where he met with the current Army chief, General Francisco Gassino. After the meeting, Luder informed him of Menem's decision.

Gen Gassino is the most likely candidate to be appointed chief of the Joint Staff, but his appointment depends on who is appointed Navy chief.

Traditionally, the chief of the Joint Staff must be an officer with more seniority than the commanders of the three branches of the Armed Forces.

There are three candidates for Navy commander: Vice Admiral Emilio Osses, the Navy secretary general; Rear Admiral Jorge Ferrer; and Rear Admiral Antonio Jose Mozzarelli, director of the Navy General Staff.

If the future government decides to appoint Osses as Navy commander, his rank of vice admiral will not allow Gassino to be appointed chief of the Joint Staff because, even though Gassino is a division general, he lacks Osses' seniority on the Joint Staff.

It is believed that the authorities will arrive at a decision tomorrow morning.

Military Appointments Reported

PY0807131089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (NA)—A highly reliable military source has disclosed that General Isidro Caceres, Vice Admiral Emilio Osses, and Brigadier Jose Julia will be the chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, respectively, and that Vice Admiral Juan Carlos Anchezar might be appointed chief of the joint staff.

The designation of Anchezar would end all speculation over the designation of General Francisco Gassino to the same post.

The source added that Rear Admiral Osvaldo Ferre will be the Navy deputy chief of staff and that General Martin Felix Bonet will be the Army deputy chief of staff.

The source confirmed the designation of Brigadier Jose Julia as Air Force chief of staff, adding that Brigadier Tomas Rodriguez is "likely" to be designated deputy chief of staff. Caceres currently commands the II Army Corps headquartered in Rosario while Osses is the commander of the sea fleet.

Brigadier Julia is air operations commander, while Anchezar is chief of the Navy personnel department.

Caceres, who belongs to the 85th class of the military school, graduated in 1955, while Vice Admiral Osses is a member of the 81st class of the Navy school, from which he graduated in 1951.

Julia is a member of the 22d class, which graduated from the aviation school in 1956.

Anchezar, who graduated from the Navy school in 1954, has more seniority than the current commander of the sea fleet despite the fact that both belong to the same class.

Meanwhile, sources in the three services have expressed their "disappointment and frustration" over the future authorities' delay in officially designating the new chiefs of staff.

High-ranking Army, Navy, and Air Force officers said on 7 July that it is "painful" to see that while all the under secretaries of the new administration have already been named, so far no official designations have been made within the Armed Forces.

High-ranking Justicialist sources have said that Defense Ministry authorities have already picked the names and that the designations "will come soon."

New Economic Officials Appointed

PY0907215289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2004 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (TELAM)—Economy Minister Miguel Roig today administered the oath of office to the secretaries and under secretaries who will serve on his economic team.

Roig swore in the following officials: Rodolfo Frigeri, finance secretary; Orlando Ferreres, economic coordination secretary; Eduardo Curia, economic negotiations secretary; Oscar Saggese, foreign trade secretary; Felipe Sola, secretary for agriculture, livestock and fishing; Pablo Aguilera, secretary for regional development; and Carlos Decger, mining secretary.

Leaders of business organizations, presidents of industrial enterprises, and well-known agricultural producers attended the swearing in ceremony, which was held at the Padilla Hall of the Finace Palace.

As the ceremony was taking place, President Carlos Menem was speaking from the balcony of Government House.

After the ceremony, Roig met with businesswoman Amalia Fortabat (Loma Negra) and businessman Carlos Tramutola (Techint). It is not known what subjects were discussed at this meeting.

New Police Chief Designated

PY0707160089 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1422 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (DYN)—It has been officially announced that Police Inspector General Jorge Luis Passero has been designated as new chief of the Federal Police.

Passero will be installed by future Interior Minister Eduardo Bauza on 10 July.

Passero replaces Police Inspector General Raul Acosta in the post.

Rebellion Leader Aldo Rico Asks Menem for Signal

PY0807172989 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1334 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, head of the 1987 Holy Week rebellion, today published a document "respectfully" asking President Carlos Menem to give the Armed Forces "a clear signal of leadership."

In the document, Rico repeats his known criticism of the Army leadership. The document includes harsh criticism of the leadership of outgoing President Raul Alfonisn.

The communique issued by Aldo Rico from his detention center in Campo de Mayo says: "It is advisable and necessary for soldiers who participated in the Dignidad and Virgen del Valle operations to raise their voices again to respectfully request a clear signal of leadership from the new commander in chief of the Armed Forces."

The document says: "We also reaffirm our desire for a definitive political solution to the stage of the war against Marxist subversion, and we reiterate our objective: The Argentine Army should stop being a factor of instability and crisis and become first a military factor in

national defense and a guardian of order and stability in the nation, and then an institutional factor contributing to the design and construction of the Argentine union and greatness."

Leftists Demonstrate Support for Ortega

PY0807021489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0054 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (TELAM)—Tonight, leftist organizations represented by the Broad Front for Liberation (FRAL) held a demonstration in support of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. The demonstration was staged in front of the Plaza Hotel, where Ortega is staying.

The demonstration was called by FRAL, the Communist Party, and some human rights organizations. Representatives of these organizations, carrying placards identifying the groups and pictures of "Che" Guevara, marched down Cordoba Avenue toward Florida and San Martin Streets.

Ortega greeted the demonstrators at the hotel door and thanked them for their presence and for Argentina's solidarity "with the Nicaraguan people's struggle for democracy and the Sandinist revolution."

Later, a delegation of politicians greeted Ortega inside the hotel. This delegation was made up of Nestor Vicente, former presidential candidate of the United Left; Eduardo Sigal and Lisandro Viale, representing FRAL; Miguel Monserrat and Mariano Lorences, both of whom are leaders of leftist sectors that have splintered from the Intransigent Party.

Lorences reported that they held a "short" meeting with Ortega. He added that they expressed Argentina's solidarity with Nicaragua, which, he said, "is a symbol of the anti-imperialist struggle in Latin America." Lorences added that on 9 July they will hold another meeting with Ortega.

Daily Leaks New Economic Emergency Law

PY0807223589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1816 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (NA)—The economic emergency bill the new government will submit to Congress for approval will be in effect initially for 180 days. It will establish a special 4-percent tax on financial assets, suspend industrial promotion benefits, forgive tax debts, and expand the scope of the government personnel reduction law in the public sector, among other measures.

The text of the bill, comprising 13 chapters and 63 articles, was disclosed today in full by the Buenos Aires newspaper PAGINA 12, along with an accompanying message that notes that "if it is true that the emergency does not create powers, it is also true that it authorizes the state to carry out normal duties with more energy and depth." The text, however, might not be the definite one.

The proposed law "makes the head of the executive branch responsible for the implementation of the state emergency policy" and will be in force for a 180-day period as of its promulgation, with the possibility of being expanded for the same period only once. It authorizes the executive branch to dictate "all the regulatory decrees it deems necessary." It also demands that the executive branch report to Congress when the time period expires.

Article 4 states that the law will be applicable in the Buenos Aires municipality and in the national territory of Tierra del Fuego, Antartica, and the Islands of the South Atlantic.

Article 3 voids law no. 21382 on foreign investments, specifying that the obligation contracted by the state and private parties will remain binding, while applications now being processed will be returned to the applicants.

In another part of the article, the law will empower the executive branch to reform the organization charter of the Central Bank in order to "grant it a maximum amount of autonomy from the executive branch" and to eliminate norms that "allow for direct or indirect financing of the national government."

The bill also establishes a special tax "to be collected only once" of 4 percent on term deposits (capital and interest) higher than 250,000 australes, bank acceptance papers, public securities, treasury letters, central bank letters, and dollar-denominated bonds.

The bill also imposes a 4-percent special tax "on country residents who possess on 30 June 1989 any type of assets abroad," which "are rightfully presumed to have been acquired from foreign sources," authorizing the DGI [Tax General Directorate] to dictate the norms for the collection of this tax.

Chapter 6 proposes that "the emergency declaration in Article 1 of this law is extended to a national system of industrial promotion" that will be suspended "at least for the period this law is in effect and at the most for a period of 1 year."

According to the text published in PAGINA 12, there are two alternatives under discussion regarding the chapter on internal trade. One of the alternatives proposes the derogation of the supplies law, and the other alternative proposes the suspension of this law and authorizes the executive branch to dictate a new legal instrument on this matter.

Articles 37 and 40 of the Economic Emergency Law, which should be approved by Congress, broadly authorizes the executive branch to introduce modifications in the National Budget Law, reporting to Congress on the use of this authorization "within 30 days as of the date when each of the decrees it promulgates go into effect."

The bill also authorizes the executive branch to dispose of allocations of funds for the following specific purposes: national transport infrastructure fund, fuel fund, national electric energy fund, Chocon-Cerros Colorados hydroelectric plants fund, and national large hydroelectric projects fund.

As for internal revenues, the bill determines that "90 percent of collected funds will be transferred to general revenues in order to finance imbalances in the national social security system, which has up to now been financed by the Central Bank.

The bill also establishes that the oil and gas royalties will take as a reference "the current sale prices in the local market," and that YPF [Government Oil Deposits] will transfer to the provinces 12 percent of such royalties." [quotation mark as received]

Article 51 authorizes the executive branch to dictate, "for a period it considers convenient, for all or some zones, the reduction, or partial or total exemption, of fines, charges for arreas, penalty interest, and any other penalty related to taxes collected by the DGI.

It also states that these benefits will be granted to "the taxpayers who normalize their situation by complying with unfulfilled obligations immediately, or who report the possession of business documents in violation."

The bill also establishes a system for compensation of debts and credits with the state and debts and credits from the public sector, as well as for the payment of net balances; and as for the internal debt, it proposes the replacement of adjustable certificates and participation certificates that are in effect with an instrument to be created.

The economic emergency law bill also provides for modifications in the capital market and reinstatment of the regulation on bank checks established by Law 16478, which was modified or replaced by law 23549.

As for public servants, the bill proposes that "in case the executive branch decides to implement the system established in Article 47 of law 22140," reducing the number of public servants, which was promulgated by the last military government, "the indemnification should not be lower than a monthly salary for each year or a period longer than 6 months of service."

Article 61 expands the scope of the government personnel reduction law to "all personnel in the centralized and decentralized public administration; special accounts; banks and other decentralized entities of whatever nature; and the municipality of Buenos Aires, with all its decentralized bodies."

Roig Discusses Crisis, Plan

PY1007032589 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0129 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Speech by Economy Minister Miguel Roig from ATC studios in Buenos Aires on 9 July—recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen:

In my first address as Argentine economy minister, I wish to convey my gratitude to President Carlos Saul Menem for having honored me with his invitation to help him implement his political plan.

For several decades, Argentina has experienced a steady economic regression marked by chronic inflation and fiscal deficits, the consequences of which—as we have already experienced and endured—have caused not only an untenable situation but have also seriously affected our way of life by endless frustration.

This is what the president wants to change. This is what he meant when he energetically said: Argentina, arise and walk.

This desire of change must overcome the disastrous decline experienced by our country, the government of which was bequeathed to us through a transition process that would have been much better organized had the previous government fully met its responsibilities.

A succession of mistakes has led us to serious crisis, the clearest evidence of which is the hyperinflation that is besieging us, the paralysis of our productive apparatus, the imbalances in public accounts, and the collapse of our foreign sector.

A direct consequence of this situation is the high level of unemployment affecting the have-nots in our country.

This severe diagnosis of the situation should not lead us to believe that there can be no solution. We know that we will be asking for new efforts and sacrifices from the people, but this time it will be to initiate structural changes that will become the true basis for promoting national recovery and the recovery of all of us who live in this nation.

Those of us who have been entrusted with the responsibility of promoting recovery must impose on ourselves severe guidelines in our government actions.

The productive revolution we are putting into motion today will require an initial effort, an effort that will be very important, an effort that must be carried out decisively and expeditiously, with great decision and speed.

This is the only way we Argentines will be able to believe that our nation can again become a land of progress in which we can fulfill our personal and collective desires. Only this way will we pave the way for our children and grandchildren.

The overall crisis is today reflected in a distressing social situation, the effects of which we can perceive daily.

Our program for stability and growth should also envisage the dramatic situation of the have-nots. Today we are forced to implement unusually severe measures because those who preceded us failed to discharge their responsiblities.

Today, the Argentine state is bankrupt. There are unpaid public debts because the state spent much more than it collected.

Our external sector is also bankrupt because our currency foreign reserves have been depleted. We have inherited unavoidable international commitments. Our importers cannot pay their debts to their foreign suppliers. We are indebted to international financial organizations, of which we are members, and we are running the risk of being declared an impaired value debtor, which would have serious consequences.

Furthermore, our credibility before foreign commercial banks has seriously deteriorated. These banks are already reluctant to help us maintain our foreign trade.

Financial speculation and permanent distrust in our currency are also part of this situation of imabalances we must overcome. Not everything has been lost, however. Not at all.

The program we are launching today—the guidelines of which I will mention—stems from the faith and courage embodied by the president's firm convictions in our ability to rebuild the foundations to make our nation truly viable, to make it recover the desired level we know it can achieve.

This program entails two closely entwined stages: a frontal attack on hyperinflation; and simultaneously and most important, the implementation of structural changes designed to achieve a lift-off of production and the restoration of the purchasing power of salaries.

This will be achieved by crushing hyperinflation and by drastically curbing the chronic inflationary spiral we have been experiencing. This is the only way we will be able to have a stable Argentine currency at home and abroad.

The productive revolution starts with an all-out war on hyperinflation, which erodes salaries and the expectation of all Argentines. We have to stop treading this crazy path that will lead us to disaster.

As has been recenlty announced, our program will basically strive to strengthen the purchasing power of salaries. To do this we must overcome a disarray of prices, otherwise no economic policy will work. This is why in this initial stage we must stabilize and control prices that have a primary impact on the economy.

We have inherited an economy poisoned with disorderly price increases that particularly experienced sharp hikes in the past week. All of this escaped our control because our administration assumed duties today. Due to its importance, I will expand on this issue because it must be corrected decisively and promptly.

Consequently, in order to protect consumers, we have decided to decrease the prices of staples. I can add that at this time we are discussing a substantial decrease of prices on more products, all of which will be included in a list of fixed prices. These prices will be considerably lower than those that were in force on 7 July.

This is an emergency measure designed to help low income sectors.

Therefore, we have decided that the Commerce Secretariat will keep in mind this policy when establishing maximum prices on all staples. This will be done in order to immediately amend the exaggerated price increases we experienced in the last few days.

A realistic economic policy is based on the implementation of realistic prices of staples. Within a couple of hours, all Argentines will be informed about the list of prices of staples so that those who head this ministry may assume a realistic and responsible attitude in this crisis.

The prices of those articles not included in this new list will be the same as those set in the price list issued by the Commerce Secretariat on 3 July. We hope this exceptional emergency measure will soon result in the reorganization of the price system based on the structure in force since mid-1988. It will be necessary to amend prices in view of the rise in the cost of imports, and the impact of new currency values and new rates of exchange.

This system will allow the new prices to be similar to those that prevailed before they were affected by hyperinflation, which has resulted in a price spiral.

We believe this should be the basis for an agreement with the business sector so that prices will remain static for a reasonable period and absorb the July salary increase.

Because we believe this agreement will be achieved shortly, and to avoid additional distortions, prices will be temporarily frozen. They will revert to the prices of 3 July.

This measure will also be instrumental in laying the groundwork for setting stable salaries so that, as soon as we get through the month of July, during which we inherited hyperinflationary factors, wage earners will recover their purchasing power in August upon overcoming the effects of hyperinflation.

In keeping with our purpose of not worsening the situation of wage earners, next week we will order an emergency bonus payment, which will be a fixed amount that will not be regarded as payment for services rendered. A bonus payment of 8,000 australes will thus be made to both public and private wage earners. A similar decision will be made regarding retired people, but this decision will be announced by the appropriate ministry.

This bonus payment is basically designed to help low income sectors to cope with a large increase of utility rates which, unfortunately, we will have to implement.

We are asking the people to make an extreme effort to bring order to the public sector. In this area, we have also inherited a very heavy burden in the form of absurdly low prices. We must correct the disorder prevailing in this area because if we do not any measure to fight hyperinflation will be useless.

There will be a very sharp increase in utility rates during this first stage. We will follow guidelines to demand that everyone make equal, comparable efforts. Rates for low income sectors will be differentiated in such a way to impose reduced rates on low consumption levels.

Just as an example, I want to cite the prices for cooking gas: For those using a lot of gas, its price will increase by an average of 640 percent. For those using less, the price will increase by up to 280 percent. For those who consume ever less, the price of gas will increase by 200 percent and the price of the bottled gas will increase by only 50 percent.

On these bases, we will implement institutional mechanisms for negotiating salaries which, based on the rule that the private sector should not transfer to their prices the salary increases they grant, will be instrumental in establishing a level of salaries that will be durable and that will increase purchasing power through the decline of inflation.

These are naturally exceptional, emergency measures which somehow go beyond the guidelines of the plan I am going to outline now.

Going back to the essence of the stabilization program, we will implement a first stage that will be primarily designed to lay down the basis for allowing us to implement as soon as possible structural changes that will consolidate our economic reorganization process.

One basic factor for promoting stability is the need to establish an adequately high exchange rate for the U. S. dollar so that this exchange rate can remain stable for a long time. This rate should be high enough to enable us to absorb the inflationary trends we are inheriting. This will result in a sharp decline in interest rates, which should rapidly drop to levels similar to those prevailing in countries with growing, stable economies.

Enterprises will thus be able to increase their production and to reduce their costs per unit by reducing their unused capabilities. Once this is achieved, through a sharp reduction of hyperinflation, the purchasing power of nominal salaries will increase and will promote consumption by workers and will thus initiate our economic recovery process.

This is why, as of tomorrow, the U.S. dollar exchange rate will stand at 650 australs per dollar. This measure will also have a positive effect on an extremely serious problem. As I said earlier, the Central Bank reserves have been depleted. We must rebuild our reserves as soon as possible. Otherwise, our country will be driven into economic and financial helplessness.

This exchange rate will promote exports and increase our reserves. Thus, in the near future, we will be able to discontinue the control measures we are required to take at the outset.

The establishment of a high, lasting exchange rate will promote our exports, despite the inevitable withholdings that will be initially required. Our exports will enjoy an actual exchange rate that will be much higher than those prevailing in our country in recent years.

To this we must add the benefits that will result from the gradual reduction of export withholdings. This will help us rebuild our foreign currency reserves, which now stand at zero.

These factors will be instrumental in reactivating productive progress and the marketing of indigenous goods and services by taking advantage of idle capabilities, as I said earlier. This will primarily result in job opportunities for those men and women who are unemployed today.

This is just a starting point. We must achieve an important goal: To eliminate the fiscal deficit. Beginning tomorrow, we will implement an active policy of promoting efficiency and of reducing public spending. In line with this policy, we will seek the privatization of those public enterprises engaged in the direct production of goods and services, except for those which must be

kept at the hands of the state for reasons of national defense and security. The public works and services minister is already working toward this goal.

Every measure that may help implement this policy as soon as possible will be considered. Provincial governments will be asked to follow similar policies.

A major effort will be made to collect as many revenues as possible based on the current tax system to narrow the fiscal gap. Tax evaders will be severely punished.

To correct the current tax system, which is not adequately structured, a new tax system that will be much more simple is in the making. This system will include a broader but smaller value added tax, which will be applied to all transactions involving goods and services, without exceptions.

This system will also ensure the collection of income taxes and social security contributions through the banking system.

Another basic reform will be the modification of the current foreign investments law designed to debureaucratize its proceedings and to give equal opportunities to both foreign and local investors. This draft law will soon be submitted to Congress.

It has become an unpostponable necessity to eliminate and/or suspend every form of privilege or subsidy by the government to private sectors.

The draft law on economic emergency that will be submitted to Congress will include a measure providing that those benefitted by current exemptions will now have to fully pay for their electricity bills or their taxes. They will receive compensation later for covering the costs of subsidies.

The entire society now supports this new system. The people are entitled to know how much they are paying in subsidies.

In the meantime and given the emergency situation, we are including the suspension for 6 months of all reimbursements which, in the case of industrial promotions, would exceed the cost of labor and social expenses.

By achieving the stabilization of our national currency, which is an essential goal to achieve the stability of our economy, we will eliminate the fiscal deficit.

We will also propose an amendment to the Central Bank charter. We will propose the elimination of the legal regulations that allow the Central Bank to directly or indirectly finance the national and provincial governments. This will be effectively achieved after a transition period which we believe will expire in September. We intend to gradually transform the Central Bank into an autonomous organization so that it can carry out its fundamental role; that is, to defend the Argentine currency. This is the basis of development, the well-being of the people, and true economic independence.

The national monetary policy will strive for credit to be oriented to the private productive sector. In so doing, the financial sector will be at the service of the productive revoluiton, it will thus abandon the sterile role it was forced to assume because of inflation and fiscal deficits in the last decade, particulary in recent years.

The current minimum legal reserves on assets will be gruadually decreased as the flow of money in the economy increases. This will allow us to gradually decrease the state enterprise deficit and eliminate it altogether. It will also allow us to expand credits to the private sector.

This is precisely one of the bases that will allow private enterprise to grow, absorb manual labor, and thus decrease costs.

Interest rates will be freely established based on market mechanisms. Consequently, they will be immediately decreased. Moreover, credit channels, which now will support the development of the production sector, will be reopenned.

We will also propose that Congress establish an institute that will guarantee deposits to manage an insurance system. This system will replace the current system that guarantees deposits [regimen de garantias].

The guidelines for the restructuring of the domestic debt are being drafted and will be disclosed soon.

These structural guidelines are included in the emergency economic law that has been submitted to Congress. This is the most important part of the economic program because the initial stage calls for the implementation of these structural reforms which will help our nation achieve the development we all want.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is merely a basic outline of the economic stabilization and development program we are undertaking today.

In the next few days, we will be issuing economic regulations. These severe economic measures will be accompanied by an aid program for low income sectors so that they may be able to successfully overcome this harsh initial stage which undoubtedly calls for the effort, sacrifice, and understanding of all Argentine socioeconomic sectors.

We have no doubt that if these series of measures are decisively and categorically implemented and if we fundamentally confront what today appears to be an obscure and uncertain future with a positive attitude, if

we tread the path of the goals of the productive revolution that was established by President Carlos Saul Menem for each one of his ministers, Argentina will again have the chance to achieve its economic development.

Good Night.

Utility, Fuel Price Hikes Ordered

PY1007055989 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0328 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jul (DYN)—The government today ordered increases of up to 640 percent in the prices of fuel, electricity, cooking gas, and telephone rates. Sharp reductions have been ordered for those products not consumed in great amounts and for those items having a major impact on the cost of living. The government increased the price of premium gasoline to 270 australs per liter, but has not yet increased the prices of fuel for public transport.

The announcements, which were made at midnight, did not include details. It was noted, however, that new fares for land, air, and sea transport will go into effect on 17 July. All other increases are going into effect at 0000 on 10 July.

Thus, premium gasoline will now cost 270 australs per liter; regular gasoline, 224 australs per liter; gas oil, 140 australs per liter; and fuel oil, 67 australs per kilogram. New prices for kerosene, diesel oil and compressed natural gas have not yet been announced.

Regarding new electricity, cooking gas and telephone rates, it has been reported that the increases range from a minimum of 200 percent to a maximum of 640 percent of large consumers, Economy Minister Miguel Roig announced in his speech.

State Airline Personnel Continue To Strike

PY0707132289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1104 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (NA)—The air and ground staff of the State National Airline company are continuing their strike seeking better salaries. The strike, which began yesterday, has affected the departure of international flights from the Ezeiza International airport.

According to sources at Ezeiza International airport press office, the situation will improve this afternoon.

Personnel Lift Strike

PY0707173689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1635 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (TELAM)—The Aeronautic Personnel Association has lifted the strike that sought better salaries. The strike was held at the metropolitan airport and at the Ezeiza international airport. It affected the domestic and international flights of the State National Airline company.

The Aeronautic Personnel Association has reported that the strike was lifted shortly after 1300 [1600 GMT].

ATC Personnel Lift Strike for Inauguration

PY0807013489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2150 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (NA)—Nestor Cantarino, finance secretary of the Argentine Television Union (SAT), has reported that the technical personnel have lifted the strike and that the presidential inauguration will be carried on national television network.

He added that "the personnel will work all night if necessary to carry out a correct and orderly coverage" of the inauguration. He also said that the workers "will work overtime today but will not ask for overtime pay." [passage omitted]

Council for Strengthening of Democracy Abolished

PY0707165489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0139 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Jul (TELAM)—The National Executive Branch has abrogated Decree No 2446/85 that established the Council for the Strengthening of Democracy [Consejo para la Consolidacion de la Democracia]. According to the appropriate resolution, the council "has contributed to the government's task by drafting projects and providing advisory services in accordance with the duties assigned to it."

The abrogation is based on the status of "consultative body" which the council has performed for the outgoing government.

Economy Ministry Increases CNEA Budget

PY0707175189 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0207 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Jul (TELAM)—Pursuant to Resolution No 95 of the Economy Ministry, which was released today, the Economy Ministry has decided to increase by 1,250,300,000 australs the budget of the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA).

This decision was made in keeping with the need to cope with the expenditures incurred in property and basic services.

The aforementioned figure is broken down as follows: 1,072,300,000 australs for Program 126, which includes the installation, production, and nuclear services, and 178 million australs for Program 128, which includes nuclear research and development.

June Inflation Rate Reached 114.5 Percent

PY0707140089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] A new record in Argentine economic history was set by the June inflation rate which reached 114.5 percent. Records were also established in June by the wholesale price index which increased by 132.3 percent and the construction cost index which increased by 134.1 percent. The National Institute of Statistics and Census released an official report.

New Chamber of Deputies President Elected

PY0707131289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Summary] Alberto Pierri, of the Justicialist Party, was proclaimed new president of the Chamber of Deputies during a special session tonight. The Chamber also elected Jorge Vanossi, of the Radical Civic Union, as its first vice president and Alvaro Alsogaray, of the Democratic Centrist Union, as its second vice president respectively.

Chile

Relations With USSR Deemed Possibility

PY0707172089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Chile's rapprochement with socialist countries does not rule out the Soviet Union. This remark was made by Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz at the international airport shortly before leaving for Buenos Aires to attend the presidential inauguration. Asked whether it is possible to establish relations with the Soviet Union, Errazuriz said:

[Begin recording] Well, I cannot give advance information on diplomatic relations. We never provided advance information on the diplomatic relations Chile has established this year.

If Chilean sovereignty and its way of life are respected, we are ready to, at least, hold conversations and analyze possibilities for a rapprochement [end recording].

Chile recently resumed diplomatic relations with Hungary and Poland.

Terrorist Command Kills Carabinero in Santiago

PY0707155089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] A terrorist commando has killed a Carabinero at a store in downtown Santiago. The officer has been identified as 1st Corporal Carlos Lamoza Arce.

According to initial reports, Lamoza was in the store at 255 San Diego Street when he was warned that a group of individuals was stealing several items, among them electrical appliances.

When Lamoza identified himself as a Carabinero, the terrorists riddled him with bullets. He died instantly.

General Manuel Mardones, the Carabineros chief of the Metropolitan Zone, went to the scene. He later made a statement to this radio station.

[Begin Mardones recording] We know that the terrorists are members of the Lautaro Youth Front. Leaflets of the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement] were also found at the place.

This terrorist commando group staged a simultaneous attack on a store located on Mellafe and Salas Streets, involving approximately 10 individuals. In the attack on San Diego Street, 15 individuals, including a woman participated. Some of these people were unmasked and other wore ski masks.

Upon leaving the store, the terrorists encountered Lamoza, who apparently tried to prevent the holdup. When Lamoza tried to arrest one of the terrorists he was riddled with bullets. [end recording]

It was later learned that the terrorists fled southward along San Diego Street. Carabineros are trying to identify the terrorists.

Carabineros headquarters of the Metropolitan Zone last night released an official report stating that at approximately 1910, about 15 terrorists carrying revolvers robbed a store located at 280 [number as heard] San Diego Street. This same terrorist group had perpetrated a similar attack on a store located on Mellafe and Salas Streets. They stole unspecified amounts of money from both stores.

The official report says that while off duty, 1st Corporal Lamoza Arce, a member of the OS 7 [not further explained] tried to prevent the crime, an action in which he lost his life.

Lamoza, who graduated as the top of his class at the Noncommissioned Officers School, has been a Carabinero for 12 years. Lamosa was 36 years old, married to Sandra Miranda Gaete, and has 3 children.

Sources reported early this morning that one of the criminals was arrested and that he is being interrogated.

MAPU Claims Responsibility

PY0807022489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The MAPU [United Popular Action Movement] Lautaro subversive group today claimed responsibility for the attack on three shops and the murder of Carabinero Carlos Lamoza yesterday on San Diego Street at the corner of Tarapaca Street.

The group released a communique saying that the terrorist action was aimed at repudiating the Constitution and the institutional system it established. The communique adds that the attack occurred when the middle class opposition and the helpless left were proclaiming Patricio Aylwin presidential candidate, thus ending their negotiations with imperialism and the groups that oppress our country.

Regarding the murder of the carabinero, the group says that while a shop was being held up, a civilian behind a car was seen drawing a weapon and that he was brought under control and shot three times with his own weapon. The communique adds that it was an armed terrorist act to get merchandise from three shops, and that over 60 militants of MAPU Lautaro, the MJL [expansion unknown] and the FRPL [expansion unkown] took part in the operation.

Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange regretted and condemned the murder of 1st Corporal Carlos Lamoza Arce downtown yesterday. Gen Stange said this is a clear case of violence carried out by a terrorist group that has ideas incompatible with a harmonious society. The funeral of Carlos Lamoza will be held tomorrow at the national cemetery, after a 1000 religious ceremony planned at the Carabineros Noncommissioned Officers School.

Body of Missing Leftist Leader Found in River

PY0907231689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2318 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Santiago, 8 Jul (EFE)—The body of a leftist leader of Molina, a city located in southern Chile, was found floating in a local river, leaders of the Radical Socialist Democratic Party, PRSD, announced today.

According to press reports, the body of 67-year-old Hector Valenzuela Cancino, the former head of a regional government office during the Allende administration, had wounds that could have been inflicted by third parties.

Valenzuela has been missing since 25 June and the last time he was seen he was accompanied by two strangers. Valenzuela's relatives filed a petition for court protection in the face of Valenzuela's disappearance, but the Appellate Court of Talca, 260 km south of Santiago, has not yet ruled on the petition.

Central Bank Reports Foreign Debt Figures

PY0707172689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The Central Bank has reported that as of 31 May the Chilean foreign debt totalled $17.319 billion, $46 million less than that owed on 30 April 1989. Of this amount, $13.536 billion is owed by the public sector, and $3.783 billion by the private sector.

Peru

Troop Deployment on Ecuadoran Border Denied

PY0707125289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2333 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Lima, 6 Jul (EFE)—The Peruvian Foreign Ministry today denied that the Peruvian Government has ordered a deployment of troops on the Ecuadoran border and described as "absolutely false" a report published by Ecuadoran media, which the Peruvian Foreign Ministry did not identify.

In an official communique, the Foreign Ministry adds that this report is "a fabrication" and says that the Peruvian Government reaffirms the "excellent state of friendly and cooperative ties linking Ecuador and Peru, and especially among the bordering towns."

The Foreign Ministry communique indicates that the Ecuadoran media has claimed that Peru had ordered "a sudden and massive" deployment of troops "in areas very close to the border."

Ecuador and Peru are members of the Andean Group, to which Bolivia, Colombia, and Venezuela also belong. Ecuador and Peru are currently implementing a binational project on the Puyango and Tumbes Rivers to foster the development of the Ecuadoran-Peruvian border area.

The two countries were pitted against each other in 1941 and 1981 in military conflicts over border disagreements.

After the first conflict, the Rio de Janeiro Protocol was signed in 1942. This protocol, which was guaranteed by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States, established the borders between the two nations.

This treaty is "legally unobjectionable" for Peru as it finally establishes the border with Ecuador. Meanwhile, Ecuador does not accept the validity of this treaty.

Uruguay

Barrios on Argentina, Visit to France, Portugal

PY0807215689 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Dr Luis Barrios Tassano has said that the inauguration of Argentine President Menem creates prospects for comon development, mainly in fishing matters. Barrios noted that the presence of a new Argentine president will help improve and make more effective all existing agreements between the two nations.

Concerning the visit of President Sanguinetti to the Argentine Republic, Dr Luis Barrios Tassano said the following:

[Begin recording] [Barrios] This is just another step among many taken by the president to strengthen the relations between Uruguay and other countries in the world, especially in this case with Argentina, a fraternal nation with which we have so many common ties and so many prospects to develop.

It really is an important fact that this transfer of power in Argentina is taking place in a democratic system. Our presence also demonstrates our support for this democratic transfer of power in a country where a democratic transfer of power has not taken place for so many years.

In this atmosphere of democracy and [words indistinct], this type of visit will help us strengthen democracy. We also intend to create or continue to recreate the atmosphere required to solve some problems, such as the fishing issue, a problem on which some [word indistinct] are being heard that will permit us to satisfactorily solve this (?problem).

[Reporter] With the presence of a new administration, will Uruguay implement (?all) the agreements signed with the Alfonsin government?

[Barrios] No. In no way. The agreements are neither signed nor implemented with the following administration [sentence as heard]. On the contrary, all those things that can be improved in the agreements must be revised in order to make the agreements more efficient, more effective, and more dynamic.

[Reporter] The most important one is the one concerning fishing, right?

[Barrios] Among other agreements. It is a very important one, but not the only one.

[Reporter] (?What about the trip to) France?

[Barrios] France will celebrate an historic event. President Mitterrand has distinguished President Sanguinetti by including him among the very few heads of state who were personally invited to attend the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

It is a great honor for the president and, therefore, it is a great honor for our country. We will participate in the celebrations there and we will also take the opportunity to talk with other foreign dignitaries about bilateral problems affecting us.

Concerning Portugal, this is an old invitation [not further identified] that President Mario Soares extended to President Sanguinetti. We will fulfill this invitation not only with the intention of strengthening our ties of political friendship with Portugal but also to stimulate, as we have done in so many other cases, bilateral ties, which will permit us to improve the cultural and commercial relations with that country. [end recording]

First Semester Inflation Rates Announced

PY0707155889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1413 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Jul (TELAM-DPA)—According to specialized publications in Montevideo, the Uruguayan accrued inflation rate for the first 6 months of the year was 38.06 percent. The same sources forecast a 75 to 85 percent inflation rate for the whole year.

The manufacturing industry, however, showed a significant drop. Total production volume decreased by 5.16 percent compared to the same period last year.

In June the items that showed the largest increase included medical care and health, with 15.9 percent, and transport and communications, with 12.7 percent.

Venezuela

Mexican President Arrives on Official Visit

PA0807233789

[Editorial Report] Caracas Venezonala de Television Canal 8 in Spanish and Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish at 2110 GMT on 8 July simultaneously carry a live report on the arrival in Venezuela of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The announcer reports that Salinas de Gortari's plane has landed at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, and that on this "his first trip abroad," President Salinas de Gortari is accompanied by his wife. The announcer then describes the official greeting of the Mexican president by President Carlos Andres Perez. The national anthems of Venezuela and Mexico are then played. Immediately following the national anthems, President Salinas de Gortari, accompanied by President Perez, reviews the guard.

The presidents then enter the terminal where the visiting president is officially greeted by President Perez. During a brief welcoming speech President Perez recalls the strong ties that exist between Mexico and Venezuela. President Salinas de Gortari responds by thanking Perez for his kind words and stresses that Mexico and Venezuela are "nations with rich traditions."

Jorge Gomez Mantilini [not further identified] presents the visiting president with the keys to the Libertador Municipality and declares Salinas an "illustrious guest." The Venezuelan Government officials are then officially introduced to President Salinas de Gortari and his wife. President Perez is then introduced to the Mexican delegation. The welcome event concludes at approximately 2200 GMT.

President Calls Doctors Strike 'Illegal'

PA0907040889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Report by Martin Pacheco—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] More than 32,000 doctors today began an indefinite strike throughout the country to exert pressure so that the labor contract signed between the doctors and the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security [IVSS] is complied with.

The doctors working for the Health Ministry, municipal hospitals, government enterprises in Bolivar State, rural clinics, and oil enterprises joined at 0800 today the strike that doctors working for the IVSS began on 12 June.

The doctors consider the presidential decision ordering them to return to their jobs unacceptable because it is aimed at precluding a labor struggle carried out by doctors over the past 40 years.

The effects of the strike were felt immediately today. The out-patient clinics were closed today and patients were told to go home—unless it was a real emergency. The hospital halls are empty and the doctors are in permanent assemblies, waiting for the decisions that the conflicts committee may adopt.

[Unidentified speaker] "[Words indistinct] wait until an assembly is held on Monday. According to Venezuelan law, the assembly is the highest authority of the Medical Federation of Venezuela [FMV] and should decide what is to be done about the decree's contents."

Meanwhile, the doctors' lawyers are reviewing the procedures to be followed within a strict legal framework. Doctor Enrique Aguero Gorrin said that they might request annulment of the presidential decree or file a habeas corpus writ in favor of the doctors.

The FMV has yet to appoint its representative to the arbitration commission, so the situation will tend to worsen over the next few hours because the Labor Ministry will have to appoint the representative. Meanwhile, thousands of social security members continue to suffer the consequences of the strike because no agreement is foreseeable for the time being.

President Carlos Andres Perez considers the doctors' decision to continue to strike not to affect the government, but it violates the law, because the arbitration commission is currently studying their demands—and no one has denied them their rights, he asserted.

[Perez] "We are not discussing the government's money—as the people say. We are not discussing the budget, which unfortunately has not been discreetly and wisely used for several years. We are discussing the workers' money and the businessmen's money, because the doctors' salaries are paid by contributions that are paid to the IVSS."